



THE
FORTUNATE
BLUE-COAT BOY.

VOL. I.





THE
FORTUNATE
BLUE-COAT BOY:

OR,
MEMOIRS
OF THE
LIFE and HAPPY ADVENTURES
OF

Mr. BENJAMIN TEMPLEMAN;
Formerly a SCHOLAR in CHRIST'S-
HOSPITAL.

By an ORPHANOTROPHIAN.

Quorum pars magna fui.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

Printed for J. COOKE, at No. 17, in Pater-
noster-Row. MD.CC.LXX.



A N
A D D R E S S

T O M Y

B R E T H R E N,

The Gentlemen who have been,
are, or may be, educated in
CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

BRETHREN,

W H E N the following Tra-
ditionary sheets fell by
chance and piece-meal (by ac-
cident) into my hands, after hav-
ing collated, and brought them
into some order, so as, by the
light I received from them,
with the help of my own me-
mory, I thought I might com-
pile a tolerable volume; I was
some time revolving in my mind,
whom

vi A D D R E S S.

whom I should dedicate them to. I once thought of honouring the President and Governors with their names at the head of them, but having been informed, that they, contrary to Scripture Doctrine, would rather chuse to patronize an *adopted Son*, than *one of their own house*; I laid that thought aside. I then thought of some of the nobility, but reflecting, that unless I wrote in the *Hoylean* manner, or an History, or the Genealogies of the noble *Houyhnhms* of true Yorkshire or Newmarket breed, I could not expect any favour from the greatest part of them.

At last, beating my brain to find a Patron, more than to collect the scattered pieces as
I had

A D D R E S S. vii

I had picked up, and to range them in order, I reflected, that I had often heard my Nurse, old mother *Hurst*, say, that “a *Blue* would always help a *Blue*, that no one need be ashamed of his livery, and that we should remember her words when she was dead and gone.” Revolving this in my mind, I thought that I had now hit on the right persons to patronize my Orphan; (and perhaps it had been better for a certain divine, some few years ago, had he addressed his discourse to his Brethren † *Crugs*, than to the Governors.)

I therefore, Brethren, submit to your protection the following sheets; which I hope will afford

ford you some entertainment, as they will at least recal to mind the actions and pastimes of your youth, and some may remember most of the persons and events here recorded. In order to refresh the memories of such *Crugs* as may have forgot the house-language, and to explain the terms to my other readers, they will find in the notes at the end of each volume a full account of all the house words and terms, &c. used in this work.

In hopes of your kind acceptance and approbation of the following sheets, I am, with all due deference to you in particular, and to the candid readers in general,

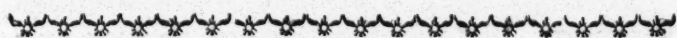
Your most obedient servant,

A Brother C R U G.





T H E
F O R T U N A T E
B L U E - C O A T B O Y .



C H A P. I.

Who was his Father and Grandfather.

✂✂✂✂ S it is the custom with (a)
✂ A ✂ Biographers, from the Or-
✂ ✂ ✂ dinary of Newgate, to the
✂✂✂✂ famous Bayle, (b) always to
begin their history with an account of
the parentage, birth, and education, of
the hero they are about to celebrate ; in
compliance therefore with custom, I shall
do the same.

B

Bc

2 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

Be it then known to the readers, (which, I hope, will be all men,) that the hero of my tale, was descended from a long race of citizens ; though (*Heu ! tempus edax rerum*) the malicious old fellow Time, has so destroyed the remembrance of them, that we can rise no higher than his grandfather Mr. Elias Templeman, who was an operator both for the teeth and beard, *alias* a barber-surgeon, but whether free of that or any other company, it matters not.

He, not dying over rich, left behind him a widow and two sons, the eldest of which, was our hero's father, then about eight years old ; and being of merchant-taylors school, and in his grammar, one of his father's best customers, thinking it a pity that the boy should lose that little learning he had already acquired, and well knowing that it was out of his mother's power to keep him



The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 3

him long at school, in the capacity she was in, generously gave him a presentation to Christ's-hospital, where being admitted and placed in the grammar school, he made so great a progress, that in his twelfth year having begun the Greek testament, he was nominated for the university; where at the age of eighteen he was admitted, and under the auspices of the governors, took both his degrees.

He then betook himself to a country curacy, and married a farmer's only daughter, with no great fortune in money; however, considering the benefit, and expectances he had conceived from his own education, and that he might have children, he thought it advisable to take up his freedom of the City, which he did by his father's copy, thereby qualifying his children, as he then said, if he should be blest with any, (and leave them unprovided for.)

4 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

for the same education as himself had received.

This was a most prudent step, for though the patron of the living, where his curacy lay, when it became vacant, upon the petition of the parishioners, presented him with it, which was thought to be more owing to his father in law's pocket, than the generosity of the 'squire; but alas! he did not live long to enjoy it; for in less than two years he died, leaving a disconsolate widow with three children, the eldest of whom being about ten years old, was taken by his grandfather, and brought up to the farming business; Benjamin the second, then in his ninth year; and a daughter. Here we may reflect on that prudent step of Mr. Templeman, in taking up his freedom, in order to qualify his children for an (*c*) orphanitrophian education; for at
that

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 5

that time there was no such thing known as unqualified presentations, and none but freemen's children admitted, unless some few upon particular donations.

As Ben had made some little progress in writing, arithmetic, and latin, under his father, his grandfather thought he might be able to obtain for him the same maintenance as his father had enjoyed ; and therefore the next year being a good hop year, he spoke to his factor, who was a governor of the hospital, about it, who, as it was his turn to present the next Easter, promised Ben his presentation, on account of Mr. Colman, (for that was his grandfather's name) having been always a good customer to his warehouse : upon which, the old gentleman permitted him to sell his hops at little better than half price, without grumbling, as he promised so generously to provide for his grandson.

B 3.

A little

6 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

A little before Easter, Ben was taken from his country school in the village, and sent to London, where his qualification being proved, and other necessary forms gone through, he was admitted into Christ's-hospital, and placed in the writing school, under the famous Mr. Shelly : there he made a considerable progress ; but being a bold spirited boy, and having been accustomed to seafaring-people, his father's living being on the Sea coast, his mind run on going to sea, and he entertained thoughts of getting into the King's ward, by the interest of his governor, whom he frequently visited ; though we will not presume to say, whether out of gratitude to his benefactor, or for the sake of a good dinner and a shilling, which he never failed of, and for which generosity, the factor took care annually to make old Mr. Colman pay cent per cent, who,
out

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 7

out of gratitude, continued to employ him, though his neighbours had frequently better prices for a worse commodity ; but, such was the confidence which Mr. Colman had in his factor, that he was fully persuaded the deputy did his best, though he was always so unfortunate as to send his hops to a bad market.

Ben, by means of a letter from his grandfather to his governor, got his desires accomplished, which did not cost the old gentleman above an hundred pounds, out of his next year's cargo : for his hops as usual came to a bad market.

As to our hero's actions as a school boy, they were such as are usual with other boys of spirit : he was a (d) dab at marbles, chuck, huzzle-cap, jumping, and the like boyish exercises. And when he went into the

8 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

(*e*) King's ward, which was two years after his coming into the house, he had not been in above twenty (*f*) church bills and about double the number of gate bills; nor had he been (*g*) clogged or collared above ten times, which made him an intimate acquaintance of Mr. Henchman the (*h*) Steward, and assisted, rather more than the deputy's interest, in getting him into the King's ward or mathematical school, where those boys are educated who are destined to the sea service.

Here, Ben either past his time with seemingly more sobriety, than he had done at large in the house, or, having only his own (*i*) Monitors over him, with whom for his boldness he was always a favourite, he was less taken notice of; and went through the ward and school with tolerable decency, from the drudgery of the last (*k*) order to the magisterial dignity of the

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 9

the first. For as he always carried his (*l*) Jack with the grace of a full spadge, (*m*) so he walked the table (*n*) with a more majestic air than the Lord Mayor advances up the isle of St. Bride's on Easter Monday. And if at any time he fell in the way of his old acquaintance Mr. Henchman, he behaved with the greatest decorum for a King's boy, being sure to be quite lusty, (*o*) though at the expence of blood from his posteriors and one side of his hair. (*p*) Nor did he, when it was his fate to descend thither, ever arrive at the stone without throwing down his clog (*q*) with which his leg was adorned, with as great a noise as if the whole Hall had been tumbling: or when it happened that his neck was ornamented with a collar, a stranger might have conceived that a whole team of pack horses were advancing, from the harmonious sound of his single bell.

10 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

Among the boys he was a general usurer ; for as he had often money sent him out of the country from his grandfather and mother, besides his governor's shillings and what he won by gaming, he was seldom or never without cash, which gave him an opportunity of lending to the other boys ; but this he never did without an high interest ; such as, if he lent a penny he would be paid two-pence the first time the borrower had leave to go out ; nay even to his Monitors he never lent without interest, and, like other stewards, very often their own money. For when he was boy to one of the first order, as it is no uncommon thing for the boys at holiday-time when they have been to see their friends, if they come home flush of money, to make a present to the first of the ward, which if he happens not to be present, they generally deposit
with

with his boy or steward, lest they should spend it, if in their own custody; for he acts in more capacities than Scrub in the play, sometimes cleaning his master's shoes and sometimes being his companion, and generally his bedfellow and close confidant. Nor is there any getting to the speech of the Don but through this gentleman usher, any more than to a great nobleman, without the usual ceremony of his gentleman. Of these deposits Ben generally sunk half, which served him to lend his master occasionally, but not without interest; though perhaps not so high as to another. And such was his temper, that, like a true usurer, he never forgave any part of his interest: for once when he had lent a poor boy a penny on his usual terms of paying two-pence the first time he had leave to go out, and upon failure to double the sum every time he had

12 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

leave, till he paid; the debtor neglecting his engagement suffered the fines for non-payment to run on to half a crown, when Ben set upon him, and by blows and threats, backed by his master's power, had at different times extorted two shillings, and finding it not easy to get the rest, he complained to the steward that the other owed him six-pence and refused to pay him; the debtor pleaded that he had borrowed but a penny, and had already paid him two shillings; to which Ben replied that according to the agreement, which the other acknowledged, it ought to have been more, for that he had reckoned nothing for all the times he had been out since he had begun to pay him; to this Mr. Henchman replied with his cane over Ben's shoulders, and calling him usurer and extortioner broke his head, and afterwards gave him a severe lashing for his extortion,

tortion, which Ben could put up with, as he ordered the other to pay him the remaining six-pence, telling him if he made such foolish bargains he ought in justice to make them good.

Here we may observe the similitude between the great and the little world: for in all great schools, you will find the same fraud, and deceit, treachery and tricking carried on among the boys, in all their little bargains, as you will among the trading part of mankind; and in their gaming, as much gambling, as you may behold either at White's or Newmarket, with this difference only that the one is for marbles, or at the most for a few pence, but the other too often for whole estates; and that both become ruined in the end by sharpers. And as the old fellow in the corner at the gaming tables fills his bags by
the

14 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

the pillage of young heirs, in lending money at high interest and great premiums; so boys take the same advantage of the foolishness or necessities of their school-fellows in lending their money to such fools as want to borrow.

But whatever our hero might be out of school hours, he was the reverse in; for he applied himself close to his business, and made a considerable progress in the mathematics and other branches of learning which those boys are instructed in, and always shone (*r*) at an examination superior to the rest of his own class or order, as they are called, which made him a great favourite with his school-master, with whom he was no less acquainted for his good qualities than he was with Mr. Henchman on account of his unlucky boyish tricks.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

*Containing an unfortunate, and fortunate
accident that befel young Templeman.*

WHEN Ben had arrived to the first order, being then between seventeen and eighteen years old, all his hopes of commanding a man of war and becoming another Sir (s) Cloudsley, (whom tradition hath fabled to have been one of his predecessors,) had like to have been baulked by one man-like action; for now the little God began to take possession of his breast, and to contend with ambition for room. His nurse, (t) under whose care he slept, had a pretty daughter about a year younger than himself, with whom Ben had contracted an intimacy, and who liked him too well
to

16 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

to deny him any thing he asked her, though it had been to have taken a walk with him in the cloisters when it was dark; for she was sure Mr. Templeman would not hurt her. One night as they were solacing themselves on the stairs and billing like two young sparrows, who should unfortunately stumble upon them but the maid-servant, who finding them in none of the most delicate attitudes to any but themselves, immediately bawled out, nor could Templeman's nor her young mistress's entreaties shut her mouth till he produced a large piece of a certain white metal, at the sight of which she stopt her tongue, but not till she had brought several of the upper boys and nurse herself to see what was the matter; and when being interrogated by her mistress she answered; Lord! she was afraid there had been thieves or some ill designing

ing fellows upon the stairs at first ; but she now saw that it was only Templeman and Miss, and that she was sorry that she had made such a noise, for that perhaps the porter, whose lodge was just below, had heard her ; to which the nurse replied, she hoped he had not, on the account of her daughter and Templeman, who would both be ruined if that old furlly Cuff had heard any thing of the matter ; when charging her attendants not to say any thing, she drove them all together with our two lovers before her into the ward : where, alas ! her hopes of being discovered by only her maid were soon disappointed ; for she had no sooner sat down in her room and began to interrogate her daughter, but a great knocking was heard at the ward door, which put an end to the discourse ; and nurse herself went to the door to see

18 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

see who was there, when to her great surprize she found the porter and the Steward ; for that surly old fellow having over-heard the courtship on the stairs, had been and fetched the Steward to have surprised the lovers, had not the maid by accident been beforehand with him. The Steward now began to interrogate nurse (who appeared a little in confusion) about her boys, and telling her the intelligence he had received from the porter, she replied she was sure all her boys were very safe, and had not been out of the ward that evening ; that the old fellow was mistaken, and that it was some fellow who had got up thither with a creature and had frightened her maid, who had very near fell over them as she was going for a pot of beer for her supper, and that as to her daughter, she, had not been out of her sight that evening. This the maid likewise affirmed

affirmed, and added that the fellow and his trollop ran down stairs and into the cloisters upon her crying out; which the rest of the boys seconded, as they durst not do otherwise for fear of Templeman, saying they heard them run off and would have gone after them but nurse would not let them. This the porter could not directly contradict, as he was gone during the uproar to call the Steward, having heard the lovers before; he therefore only said that he thought it had been Templeman's voice, but who he was with he knew not, but was sure it was a woman (for he was unwilling to hurt the young lass of whom he had a suspicion, though he cared not what became of Templeman.) To this nurse replied, that as for Templeman he had been reading to her and her daughter all the evening, and that she was going to give him part of a
pint

pint of beer which she had sent for for his trouble, as it was dry work. This affirmation, as it came from a sister officer, whose daughter, had she been known, might have been in danger, was swallowed by Mr. Steward; and the porter, who was under his command, (whatever he thought,) was forced to do the same, though he did not fail to declare his suspicions, which were by many looked upon only as a part of his *usual good nature*, and believed but by few, as the steward was always ready to contradict them upon the word of Mrs. Nurse; by which means Ben escaped an expulsion from the house, which would certainly have been his fate had he been taken by the old porter, as the steward could not then have screened him, but must have brought him to the committee, where his governor's interest would hardly have saved him, especially

especially as his grandfather was now dead, and his elder brother who had succeeded him in the farm had employed another factor.



C H A P. III.

Some account of old Mr. Colman, and Mr. Timothy Templeman.

B E N's grandfather Colman, whom we have told you was now dead, had been of the stamp of the antient yeomen of Kent, generous and (*u*) open-hearted, scorning basely to stoop to an haughty superior or to oppress an inferior. In any dispute with his landlord, he was as ready to tell him he would quit his farm as the other was to threaten to turn him out; for he considered the obligations between landlord and tenant to be mutual;

22 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

tual, and that if one paid his rent punctually the other was as much obliged to him for using his land, as he was for the use of it. His house was always the resource of the poor, for milk and butter, as his barns were for corn; all which he sold them at the most reasonable prices, rather under than over the market, as there was no carriage; for the poor, he considered, must live or else they could not work, and the farmers could not do without them. And as he was thus a friend to the poor, so he was an indulgent master to his servants, always keeping a good house, and when any of them happened to have had a wet day's work, taking care to give them something warm when they came home; by which means he preserved their healths and gained their esteem; so that he never wanted good servants or workmen, which was often the case with

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 23

with his neighbours. And at the time of his death, he had scarce a servant or workman about his house but had been brought up in it from a boy. Towards his neighbours he was open and generous in his temper, and always ready to assist them with his advice, and often his pocket when they found any difficulty in making up their rent or other payments. This with his hospitality (for no one called at his house without eating or drinking) gained him the esteem of all men.

It would have been a wonder if Mr. Templeman had been long unacquainted with such a parishioner, had he even been of any other persuasion ; but he was always a constant churchman himself and caused all his family to be the same.

As Mr. Colman had been always used to invite the minister of his parish
to

24 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

to his table on Sundays, so the first Sunday Mr. Templeman came to the parish, he commenced acquaintance with this hospitable yeoman, by whom he was so approved that he afterwards frequently visited him, which brought him into a closer connection with his family ; for he had not been two years in the parish before he had gained the affections of his daughter, which, though it gave the old gentleman some Chagrin when he first perceived it, yet did not totally displease him ; though he said enough to prevent Mr. Templeman's asking him for any fortune or indeed his consent to the match : but as they were both of age, they obtained a licence, and were privately married by a brother parson, without the knowledge of any one ; nor was the secret divulged till Mrs. Templeman found herself under the necessity of acquainting her father therewith, who,

as

as he was not of a very passionate temper and she his only child, he only told her he thought she might have done better, but she had pleased herself, he hoped, and therefore as what had been done could not be undone, he must now endeavour to make the best of a bad market; and sending for Mr. Templeman to dine with him that day, when he arrived he met him with all chearfulness and friendship, and without any upbraiding or reflections either on his person or character: only told him, he was very sorry to hear that he had stolen an ewe out of his fold, which he would have given him himself for asking for; and turning gravely to him, said, Sir, as you have taken my daughter according to your own canons, for better for worse, I presume you do not expect any portion with her, as you can make her no settlement. Mr. Templeman, who, by

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26 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

the hurry he was sent for in, judged how affairs stood; and being well acquainted with the old gentleman's temper, told him he thought that it would be easier for him to forgive, than it would have been to have consented, and that as he had committed an error in not asking his consent, which, as he had acknowledged he would not have denied, the crime was the less; that as to any fortune with his wife, he left that entirely to his generosity; but that whatever he might give him should be all settled upon her and her children. Mr. Colman said, he would take care of that himself, but that if a twelvemonths run or so in his house was agreeable to him till he saw what she had got; as he had no wife and could but ill spare his daughter who was his house-keeper, he was welcome to it. Mr. Templeman, who knew the old gentleman
too

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 27

too well to refuse his offer, readily embraced it; and the next day dismissed his own lodgings and retired with his horse and study to his father-in-law, with whom he resided till his death; and in about six months after, his wife was delivered of a son, who was baptised after his grandfather, who was also his godfather, whom the old gentleman was very fond of, and to whom at his death, under the care of his mother till he was of age, he left the Farm and bulk of his Estate, giving Ben two hundred pounds, to fit him out in the world when he should have served his apprenticeship: and his sister the like sum on her marriage; and thirty pounds per annum to his daughter during her life.

Mr. Timothy Templeman being thus settled in the farm under his mother, till he came of age, though he had been bred

28 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

up under his grandfather, yet his ideas were in many cases very different from the old gentleman's. He considered mankind as they really are; and it was a constant saying of his, *no man would do much for nothing*, and though he did not deviate from his grandfather's maxims in his family and behaviour to his workmen and the poor in general; (an example but too rarely followed in these days, when every method of oppressing the poor and laborious part of men is practised by the rich and overgrown farmers.) But Tim saw his account in following his grandfather's steps in this: for as he had been taught both by his father and grandfather, he always held this as a certain truth, that it was his grandfather's charity that had procured a blessing upon his labours to enable him to do as he had done, for he began with but little; yet whenever a neighbour wanted to borrow
any

any money, he always required a legal interest and proper security, which his grandfather seldom did, thinking mankind in general as honest as himself; but Timothy, though young, knew better: he had by his father been theoretically instructed in the ways of men as well as religion, and by his own observation in going to market, latterly with his grandfather, had found all men to be selfish. It was from this knowledge that he had suspected, and by accident detected his hopfactor, which was the reason of his discharging him, though to the detriment of his Brother Ben; for though he had a very great regard for his brother, yet he said he would sooner make him a present of two hundred pounds when he came out of the house, than suffer his factor to cheat him of one, and for which his brother would be but little the better: and as to any loss he might sustain on that head, he would make

30 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

him ample amends; and did not doubt, but in time he should be able to provide for him in the sea-service, as he was acquainted with many young gentlemen in that part of the country, some of whose fathers were at the head of affairs, and his grandfather's memory would always be a recommendation to the old ones.



C H A P. IV.

The Hopfactor detected.

AS Old Mr. Colman died about Christmas and Tim took upon him the business, there being then a quantity of Hops in hand, which bearing a good price, Tim, and his mother were advised to sell; accordingly he sent up a load to the deputy, with orders not
to

to be sold till he came to town; as he purposed following them. Accordingly when Tim came to the deputy's, he found his hops in the warehouse, and the markets being brisk, the next day gave orders for the sale, which was finished that morning; and Tim received for them five pounds per hundred, which he knew was really a great deal less than they were worth, or than he could have sold them for at home, having been offered six pounds ten shillings. He expostulated with the deputy about it, who told him they were not so good as he could have wished, and that the markets were lowered; that his grandfather had never found fault with his sales, and that he hoped he should make him amends in his next freight, for there would shortly be a great demand for exportation, and he would let him know when would be the best time to send them up; and

32 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

much more to the same purpose : to all which Tim gave him the hearing, but was not at all the better satisfied with his factor ; but as he found he could obtain no redress, the hops were fold, and there was an end of them ; he seemingly acquiesced, but promised in his own mind not to employ him any more : so bidding him good-by withdrew , the deputy making an apology that he could not ask him to dine with him that day, as he was obliged to dine himself abroad.

Tim having done his business with his factor began to think of calling upon his brother ; but as he had not yet left school, he concluded it would be inconvenient ; and therefore, as he did not intend to go out of town till next day, he deferred it to the afternoon, and after having lounged some time at a Coffee House, he went to
take

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 33

take a walk upon the Keys to waste time till three of the clock, when he intended to ask his brother Ben to dine with him at a tavern, it being Thursday.

As he was walking along the keys he observed some Hops, just pitched; which being in his own way he thought he would look at them, but when he came to survey them found they were his own marks. A lucky thought now occurred to him, that if he could see the buyer, he might find whether his factor had cheated him or not; for he shrewdly suspected him; when enquiring for the owner of the hops, a plain-dressed gentleman said they were his, and that he had just bought them, and was going to ship them for the North. (w) “Dey look to be good, cries Tim, ‘by de bags: will you give me liberty to take a sample?”

34 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

“There will be no occasion, says the owner, young gentleman, for I have one in my pocket which I have just drawn that I will shew you:” Tim took the sample, and handling it replied, “Ay, Sir, dey be pretty good Hops indeed; do you chuse to part with ’em? I may be a chapman, if we can agree.” Why Sir, replied the merchant, if I can get any thing by them, I don’t know but I might; but I gave a high price and will not sell under eight pounds per hundred; nor would I take that, but I expect more of the same shortly from the country;” “Dat, says Tim, is a long price indeed, but I am not disposed to give eight for what I have just sold for five.” “How says the gentleman, I am sure I bought them of Mr. ——, the factor in the Borough, and gave seven pounds per hundred.” “Dat may be, says Tim, but he paid me no more dan
five

five, as you may see by his Bill: you'll find de marks agree." The gentleman took the Bill, and finding the marks, weight, and numbers correspond, says to Tim; "young gentleman, I find you are deceived, and are in the hands of a rascal; but I believe I can assist you, and get you your full price as well as expose the old rogue; for I hate a villain, especially one who would impose on the unexperience of youth; but I presume" continues the gentleman, "these are not your own Hops, but that you were sent up by your father or some relation to see them sold." "No Sir," replies Tim, "dey are my own: my grandfader is lately dead, and moder and I keep the farm; derefore as I always suspected grandfader was cheated by his factor, I thought I'd come to town and see how markets went, and am sure I have seen worse Hops dan dey sold for six pounds

36 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

and fix pounds ten shillings, dis morning, do' he told me he could get but five. "Well, young gentleman, replies the merchant, if you'll sell me the remainder in hand at the same price I am to give for these, and send them up within this fortnight, I'll procure you your forty shillings an hundred that you have been cheated of." "agreed cries Tim, but where shall I find you?" "As to that, replies the gentleman, I'll tell you before we part, but will first put you in a ready way for your money. I am to dine to day at the Gun Tavern, where the old fellow is to give me a bottle and bird, and I am to pay him for his Hops, which I have not yet done." Den, cries Tim, laughing, I'm better off than my factor, for I have got my money first." "He was pretty sure of his chap, says the merchant, or he would
not

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 37

not have been so willing to have parted with his goods without the ready. But, as I was saying, he is to dine to day at the Gun and receive his money; now if you'll give us your company and order a few fish extraordinary, I'll pay him before your face; and when he sees he is detected, he'll be glad to refund, if you promise not to expose him, which when you have got your money you may use your own pleasure." Tim thanked the gentleman, and promised to wait on him at the time appointed.

Mr. Templeman left the gentleman and walked towards the Tower, where he went to see the Lions, (which he would feign have stroaked or shook hands with) and some other curiosities, and was greatly delighted with queen Elizabeth's pocket pistol, and remarked

38 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

marked that she must have been a very strong woman to carry it.

At the time appointed he returned to the Gun, where his merchant and factor were already come. Upon his entering the room, the Deputy was at first surprised, and asked the merchant if he was acquainted with him; to which he replied, a little; that he had met him that morning on the Keys, and he had agreed to make a third with them at dinner, as they had almost finished a bargain of Hops, which should be ended in his presence, as it was in his way. This was a little alarming to the Deputy, lest Tim should smoke any thing of the price he had sold his Hops for: but as he only at that time supposed he had sold the gentleman a load, and done better for himself than he had done for him, it did not spoil his

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 39

his dinner; as he resolved not to receive his money before Tim. He therefore put on the best humour he could, drank Tim's health, commended his late grandfather, and enquired after his mother, and said that Tim himself was a very promising youth, and that he did not doubt he would make as good a man as his grandfather had done before him; to all which Tim bowed.

Dinner being ended, the gentleman thought it time for business, and asked Tim, "if he stood to his word;" "yes Sir, says Tim, I hope I shall never fly from it: if I say a thing I'll do it." "Four load I think it was," says the gentleman, "yes replied Tim, at seven;" "that was the price, says the gentleman, to be delivered at the Keys in London," "very well, says Tim, they shall be here by

40 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

by the next Hoy." "If you please, says the gentleman, I'll give you earnest, and Mr.—— will witness the agreement and receipt, which I'll immediately draw up;" upon which he took out his purse and gave Tim twenty Guineas.

This discourse had given the deputy great uneasiness, who now suspected he was discovered; and was for taking his leave, saying he had some earnest business that required his immediate presence; but the gentleman told him he had not received his money for his Hops, and that they should not detain him long; he answered he would draw upon him another time; this the gentleman obviated, by saying that he was going out of town, and did not chuse to leave any thing unpaid; and opening his purse laid the money on the table, saying,
I think,

I think, Sir, it is an hundred and forty pounds, and gave him Tim's Bill instead of his own; this startled the deputy, who looking on it said there was some mistake of his clerk, but he would see it rectified: the gentleman made answer to him, there appeared to him no mistake, but a plain piece of villany; and showing him his own Bill, observed they were both the same Number and Mark, and both his own hand-writing, and that if he would not give him a proper receipt and pay the young gentleman the forty pounds which he would have tricked him out of, he himself would expose him upon Change, and the other should sue him for the defraud.

These were terms which the Deputy would have gladly embraced, had he thought that would have stopt Tim's mouth in the Country;

42 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

try; but as he could not be sure of that, insisted still on the mistake, telling Tim, if he would come to him the next morning he would rectify it; hoping then to have had an opportunity of tampering with him, to be quiet: but to this the gentleman objected, nor would Tim agree, but only promised he would not mention the affair in London; so that the Deputy was obliged to pay Tim the forty pounds, and give the gentleman his receipt, which being done he went off in a pet, damning (within himself) the Yorkshire Tike and the young prig.

Tim and the merchant having finished their bottle and their bargain, and laughed at the panic they had put the Deputy in, parted: when Tim went to pay a visit to his brother Ben, and told him of the honesty of his Governor, bidding him not
trouble

trouble him with any more visits, and that he would make up his loss out of his own pocket, for that he had rather give him an hundred himself than be cheated of fifty pounds by that fellow, who he did not doubt had made his grandfather pay a pound for every shilling he had given him; and that now, as he was almost ready to go out of the House, it could not be in the power of his Governor to do him much harm, which for his own sake he believed he would not attempt: then having treated his brother with a bottle of wine and a lobster, and spent an agreeable evening together, in which Ben did not scruple to confess to him, as they loved each other entirely, the affair of the stairs, which he, being a young man, only laughed at, but cautioned him to take care of matrimony; then giving Ben
half

44 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

half a Guinea his mother had sent him, and a whole one out of his own pocket, he took his leave of him and went to his Inn, and the next day into the Country to send his Hops up to the merchant according to agreement; where being arrived, he considered himself beyond the limits of his promise, to the worthy Deputy, that extending only to London, and so not only told his mother, but all his neighbours; and did not fail to talk of it at market, and tell how he had bit the Biter, as he called it; so that in a little time the story was known all over the country, and no one would send a single bag of Hops to the Deputy; which so grieved him, that as trade had left off him, he left off that, and retired to end his days in the country.

CHAP.

C H A P. V

A remarkable occurrence to Mr. Benjamin.

IT was not long after the adventure of the stairs, and indeed before the fear lest he should have been discovered, was out of his head, that one Sunday when an (x) Anthem was sung at the Church before the Lord-Mayor and Governors of the Hospital, in which Ben had a solo part, a Lady who happened to be at Church took so much notice of our hero's voice and person, that she was desirous of hearing a repetition of the Anthem, and of making an acquaintance with the singer, as she was fond of Music; which she imagined very easy to be done, and without any damage to her reputation, as Ben was
but

46 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

but a boy, and so much beneath her in circumstances; though as to his person, that too was so far from being disagreeable, that had he had a few more years over his head, he might have been amiable in the eyes of the most exalted Lady. He was tall for his age; his face was a fine oval, with a nose a little prominent; black eyes, which sparkled with the lustre of diamonds; a tolerable high forehead, smooth and white as alabaster, and his cheeks flushed with the red of the damask-rose, in each of which when he smiled appeared a small dimple; fine ruby lips, with an exact proportion of chin below, which was ornamented as was his upper lip with a fine down, but of what colour was not yet discernible: it indeed seemed to promise that of his hair, which was a dark chestnut and hung in ringlets round his shoulders; while his body appeared

appeared to have harmony of parts as far as could be discerned through the bundle of Baize he was obliged to wear. But it was his voice which principally attracted the Lady's notice, and what she wanted to hear again, to accomplish which, she went after Church to the hall, to see the boys at supper; where she was accosted by the very person she wanted to hear, with, madam, do you chuse to walk into the Organ loft? indeed she had given Ben a crown at Church for the use of an Anthem-book, which was the cause of his being now so complaisant, or he had left that ceremony to his boy, as is the most usual way.

To this the Lady returned, that she would take a walk in the Hall first, and then she did not know but she

48 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

she might, if there was room. Our hero offered his service to walk along with her, which she accepted, and Ben attended her up the Hall, and pointed out to her all the principal figures in the large picture at the bottom, representing King Edward the sixth, delivering the charter of the Hospitals to Dr. Ridley Bishop of London, in the presence of Sir Richard Dobbs, then Lord-mayor, and the Court of Aldermen. And the same in that most grand piece of painting of Vandyke's, representing the Court of King James the second (but designed originally for Charles second, who died before it was finished) with the presentation of the boys to his Majesty on a New Years day, (which then went round the top of the hall and made a much nobler appearance than it now does, along the side where only the middle can
be

be viewed in a proper light.) He then conducted her into the mathematical school, shewed her the models of the ships, and afterwards the girls ward; when it being near supper time, he reminded her of going up into the organ loft, where he told her she might see better than in the hall; she accepted his offer, and was accordingly placed in the front of the gallery.

Prayers being ended, Templeman again attended to hand her down the stairs and usher her into the hall: not that we are to suppose that he had then any other thought, in regard to the Lady, than what the crown he had already received and the hopes of such another present inspired. Supper being ended, Ben soon found the Lady in the crowd, and reconducted her to her seat in

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50 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

the organ loft, placing her next himself, who was the first anthem boy, that he might have the opportunity of accommodating her again with a book, which he did. After the anthem was over, and the boys had gone in procession round the hall, before the governors, our hero was ready with two of his underlings, with each of them a candle, to light the Lady down stairs; he himself making her an offer of his hand, which, as there was a great crowd, she did not refuse; suffering Ben to lead her to her coach which waited in the Grey-Friars, when pulling out her purse, which was to Ben a much more agreeable sight than her person, she slipped an half guinea into his hand, thanked him for his complaisance, and giving his servants a shilling between them, she ordered her coachman to drive off, telling Ben she should not make it long before she paid the hall another visit, when she hoped she should see him

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 51

him again, and wou'd enquire for him, as she had learned his name, which she said she should not forget.



C H A P. VI.

A short account of the Lady.

THE Lady to whom, or rather to whose purse, our hero had shewed so much complaisance, whose maiden name had been Williams, was the natural offspring of a certain Peer, and the widow of a rich old citizen, which state she had been in just long enough to appear in colours. She was about twenty five years of age, having been married when young, to her former husband, who being upwards of sixty at his nuptials had neither impaired her age, nor shape; and to make amends for her nursing him

52 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

for five or six years, which she did with great care, not so much as once finding fault either with his tobacco or his double pot of (y) Sir John Clambercrown, of which the old man was very fond, and of which she would sometimes take a draught to oblige him, he had made her his principal heir to near half a plumb, which was now entirely at her own disposal. As to her person let it suffice that if she was not an exact beauty she was far from unhandsome; though her hair was naturally of the same hue with Juno's, which, as it is not so fashionable in our days as it was among the antients, she concealed its colour by art. Her stature was a middle size, and she had undoubtedly as many charms about her person as she had thousands in her purse. Such charms to be sure would not fail of admirers; and the Lady had, since
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the death of her husband, had several offers, but as yet rejected them all; some as unequal, and others with other excuses; as that she was not yet disposed to marry again. Indeed she plainly perceived that most of them paid their addresses to her fortune rather than her person; and as she did not intend again to subject herself to the controul of an husband, though she had no objection to marriage; yet she was determined to chuse one whose condition, if he was endued with gratitude, should be dependant solely upon her will, and own the obligations he lay under to her; and she had not as yet found one among all her suitors that she thought would comply with this: though we will not presume to say that it was with that intent that she went to hear the anthem or to the hospital to see the children sup, as

54 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

she could scarce think of finding one there for her purpose, or of debasing her birth, (which she was very proud of,) and her fortune by taking a Blue-coat Boy to her bed; yet so it happened that Ben's complaisance had got such possession of her mind, that it was not long before the beauties of his person did the same in her heart.

All the way she went home, her thoughts continually ran on the complaisance of our hero; insomuch that she almost forgot that he was a Blue-coat Boy. At her return she did nothing but entertain her Abigail with a description of his person and behaviour, for the remaining part of the evening, and was so lavish in his praises that Mrs. Pinup began to suspect she might soon have a master whom she was already resolved not
to

to obey, as she thought there was little to be got by him; and though she did not directly declare her suspicions to her Lady, yet she gave several inuendos which shewed her sentiments; and when she had undressed her Lady for bed, plainly told her, she did not doubt but she would dream of her pretty Blue-coat Boy; a speech which greatly alarmed her, and brought her pride to her aid; so that when Mrs. Pinup left her, she fell into a soliloquy with herself, in which her new acquaintance got the better, by her concluding that though he was but a Blue-coat Boy, yet he might be of a good family and perhaps the son of a gentleman; and as to fortune, she considered her own as sufficient to make any one happy; when her pride returned again, with the question, what would the world say of her, should she take such an imprudent

56 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

step as she had been meditating? Thus perplexed between pride on one side and a violent passion on the other, she got little rest that night, and in her slumbers, the little God so perplexed her, with the image of her new acquaintance, that she frequently cried out, I must see him once more: thus, she passed three long and uneasy days, sometimes resolving to see the desired object, and at others, determined to cast him from her thoughts; but that was impossible; think she must, and no other subject would offer itself. She drove to the park, the ring, to court, to the play, to divert her thoughts, but all in vain; Ben's image was in her mind in every place.

As for Mrs. Pinup, she could by no means please her, in any thing she did; if she spoke, she was an
imper-

impertinent huffy; in adjusting her dress she was awkward; her ribbons were of a wrong colour, or something was wrong; till Mrs. Pinup, who, like the rest of her sisterhood, was not endowed with quite so much patience as Job, at last exclaimed, *lafs a day!* Ma'am, I cannot think what is the matter! I am sure, I always do my best, and you used always to 'prove what I did, but since you have seen this draggled-tail Blue-coat Boy, you are so fractious! why, you are, to be sure, your own mistress, and have nobody to call you to any account for your actions; was I in your place, I am sure I would dispatch the footman with a message for him to come to me directly, and would do as I liked: you say, he is a proper young man, and quite complaisant and good-natured, and he may, perhaps, be the son of some

58 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

gentleman of a small fortune, or at least of some country parson, whose small preferment and large family have obliged him to accept of that education for his son.

This was the first comfort the Lady had met with, from Sunday evening till Thursday almost noon: however, not willing to own her passion, she replied, sure the creature's mad! what do you think that I am in love with him, or that I, after having rejected so many gentlemen's offers, should want to marry a boy, and from among the lowest tribe of mortals?

Dear ma'am, replies Pinup, I hope your 'onour can't think me guilty of conspecting, that you should think of marrying a boy: but, I believe, you would be glad of his company now and then, to amuse you at your harp-fichord,

fichord, as you says he sings so fine ; and I dare say, he can come and see you, for I often see them boys running all the town over, and if you do but send, I dare say, he'd come this very afternoon to tea ; and, that your La'ship may very well ask him, without any body's notice, as you are to have no company to-day, and if any chance visitor calls, you may be abroad. Well, Pinup, replies her mistress, I don't know what I may do, I'll sit down to the harpsichord and consider of it ; and now I think on it, there is my last suit of second mourning for my dear husband, you know I have worn it but little ; I believe it may be of some service to you, so you may take it. Mrs. Pinup dropped her curtsy, and thanking the lady, departed to take possession of her present.

She

60 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

She had no sooner left her lady, and carried off her prize, than she was accosted at the bottom of the stairs by the footman, with, So Mrs. Pinup, well, how does your lady to-day, is she out of her cross fits? I'm sure there has been no such thing as pleasing her for these three days. What! I suppose we are to have a dance all round Hyde-Park this morning, to cure her megrims. If she don't alter her temper, for my part, I am resolved to give her warning, for I don't like to live where a body can give no satisfaction: I believe, she'd find a better cure in the city, than in Hyde-Park; but of that I say nothing. Why truly I don't know, William, cries Pinup, but you may guess right; but my Lady, I believe, will neither go out nor see company to-day; for, if I guess right, you will have a jaunt into the city presently. Ay, says the footman,

footman, I thought how matters would go ; I judged it could not be long, before she would go or send where she was on Sunday night : well, if that will bring her into a good humour again, I don't care for the walk, tho' I'm sure there is nothing to be got by it, but wearing one's shoes out, without any thing to buy more. Here the Lady's bell rung, and broke off the discourse, or we might have been able to have informed the reader more of the shrewd guesses of Mrs. Abigail and the footman.

As soon as Pinup came into her Lady's presence, whose advice had worked greatly on her mind, she accosted her ; Well, Pinup, I have been trying my harpsichord, and have endeavoured to play that sweet Anthem I heard on Sunday, but cannot remember a single note of it. Where is William ?

62 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

liam? Fetch me pen and ink; I must have the boy to sing it over to me again. Why to be sure, Ma'am, says Pinup, as you are so fond of it, the young man will be glad to teach it you, especially as there is no doubt but you will reward him handsomely for his trouble, and you says—here the lady stopt the torrent of her maid's rhetoric, with, Prithee don't stand prating, but fetch the pen and ink, I'll write immediately: Pinup implicitly obeyed, and the lady wrote a note, directed to Mr. Templeman in Christ's Hospital, and dispatched William for the object of her desires.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

What happened afterwards.

N O sooner had the Lady dispatched William, but she summoned Mrs. Pinup to dress, and gave orders for the same clothes she had worn the Sunday before, taking more than ordinary pains to adorn her person ; which made her Abigail tell her, that the company she was to receive was of no such extraordinary rank, that she need take so much pains to set herself off ; that she did not doubt, but the young man would like her as well in one dress as in another ; to which her lady replied, that perhaps might be, but that she should dress the same to receive him, as she would

64 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

would the greatest nobleman in the land, ordering her to mind her business, and to tell the cook, that she should not dine that day till four of the clock, by which time she expected Mr. Templeman would be with her ; who, she said, might perhaps eat a bit of chicken and asparagus, though he had dined before ; as she supposed the house commons were but short and ordinary. La', Ma'am, cries Pinup, what do you talk of chicken and sparagrafs for a Blue-coat boy ? I dare say, he'd much rather have a good slice of plumb-pudding, or apple-pye. Is that your opinion ? says the lady ; well, perhaps you may be right in this ; now I consider again, youth are generally fond of such things ; well, tell the cook to let them both be made.

The

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 65

The lady now went to her harpsichord, and Mrs. Pinup to deliver her message to the cook, who, like a good servant, would have obeyed her lady's commands, without ever asking the reason of two such extraordinary dishes at one time, neither of which often made their appearance in that house, had not Pinup begun very abruptly ; Well, cook, here's some fine work cut out for you ; you must make an addition to your dinner, of an huge plumb-pudding, and a great apple-pye, for we are to have company to dine ; and mind, dinner is not to be ready before four o'clock. What ! says the cook, Mrs. Pinup, is our lady going to feast one of the city companies with plumb-pudding and apple-pye ? for, I hear, she has sent William into the city ; no, replied Pinup, but she is going to feast an half-starved Blue-coat boy, who I suppose

66 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

pose won't leave a bit of either pyc nor pudding for us servants, if you don't make enough to serve half a dozen troopers for their dinner. Well, it's my opinion, if this same boy is not a fool, you'll see strange things in a little time; nay, I will lay a wager our lady is in love with him. It may be so, perhaps, says the cook; I am sure I have seen very handsome genteel young men there, when I lived servant with the treasurer. Lord! replies Mrs. Pinup, I am surprized at you; how can any thing of a man be either handsome or genteel in those frightful petticoats? To me, they look like great outlandish girls, without stays. You may think as you please, replies the cook, I shall obey my lady's orders, in the best manner I can, and have not time to stand talking about them. Upon this she went to her work, and Mrs. Pinup retired

retired to her closet, for something to comfort her after the fatigue of the morning; where we will leave her, to look after William, whom we some time ago sent on an errand.



C H A P. VIII.

William delivers his message.

THE footman, that he might oblige his lady, or, as he thought, bring her again into a good humour, set his best leg foremost, and without thinking of the wear of his shoes, in little more than half an hour had measured the length of near two miles, when he arrived at the hospital; where, the boys being all at school, he was not a little bewildered, not knowing of whom, or where to enquire for the person to whom he was sent; however, looking

68 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

looking about him, he observed an elderly man, walking very gravely in the cloisters, whom he thought seemed to belong to the house: he stepped up to him and asked him, if he could tell him where to find young Mr. Templeman, for that he had a letter to deliver to him.

This, was no other than the furly old porter, who returned for answer, that he knew of no *Mr. Templeman there*; there was one Templeman in the King's ward, and he was at school, and could not come to him now, but he might go to the school door, and send in his letter. Sir, says William, it requires an answer, and I do not know whether the lad you mention may be the person I am sent to, unless I see him. I know nothing of that, replied old Allen, but our boys are not to be at every one's call; you may go to the school

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 69

school and fee ; I can tell you no farther ; his master, I suppose, won't deny his coming out, if you send in your letter. Sir, says William, where is the school, for I am an entire stranger here ? At this time, one of the boys came running out of the grammar school, to whom the old fellow called out ; Here, you sir, come and shew this man up to the mathematical school ; the boy came up, and making his leg to William, in expectation of a reward, said, Sir, I will shew you : there, says the old fellow, if you give that boy an half-penny, he will go with you, and carry your letter in for you. William made no answer, but followed his guide, who had him up to the school-door, and the boy asking him whom he wanted, upon information looked in, and asked for Templeman, saying, there was one wanted him at the door : as the master happened not to be then in
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70 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

the school, Ben immediately came out ; when the servant asking him if his name was Templeman, and being told, Yes, lest he should make a mistake, he farther asked, if he was the young man who sung the Anthem the Sunday before ; which being also answered in the affirmative, he told him, he had a letter for him, which he believed would not displease him, and that it required an immediate answer. Ben took the letter, and opening it, found the contents as follow.

S I R,

YOU may be surpris'd that almost a stranger, and a woman, should write to you ; but, when I reflect on the civility and complaisance I found from you last Sunday, I make no doubt of your compliance with my request, that you will permit the bearer to conduct you to my house, as I have a particular

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 71

ticular desire to hear the same Anthem again, I heard on Sunday. I have given my servant orders, to make use of my name to your master, for leave for you to come, if that be necessary, and I believe he will not deny me. I wait with impatience till you arrive, and am your friend,

HANNAH ———

Benjamin, upon reading the letter, shewed some emotion, and a modest blush overspread his whole countenance ; he told the footman, he would gladly wait on his lady, if he could obtain leave, as soon as the school was over ; to which, William replied, that he doubted not but his lady's request would be complied with, as he had the liberty to use her name ; that he should be obliged to him, if he would acquaint him to whom he was to apply for leave, and to tell him
where

72 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

where he was to be found. Ben conducted him to Mr. HENCHMAN'S, who, had he guessed his business, would probably have not been at home, but happening at that time to be in a pretty good humour, he heard the message through, which William delivered with a great deal of grace; to which Mr. HENCHMAN replied, that this might be true, or for ought he knew might be a made up story between the boy and him; that the lady ought to have wrote to him herself: To which William answered, that he dared to say, his Lady would have wrote, had she thought there would have been occasion; that she had wrote to the young gentleman, (for so William was pleased to stile Ben) and that he did not doubt but he would shew him the letter, if he desired it; adding, that his Lady was a person
of

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 73

of a very great fortune and interest ; that he was certain that it would be very much for the young gentleman's advantage : As to that, says Mr. Henchman, was I well assured, that the lady whom you say you serve, had really sent, I should not be very scrupulous of letting him go ; but it is our duty, to take all the care in our power of our boys, for fear of their being corrupted, to which youth is too much prone. Here, William again appealed to Ben's letter, saying, he hoped that would satisfy him of the truth of his message ; that for his part, he had no acquaintance at all with Mr. Templeman, and had met with some difficulty to find him out.

Mr. Henchman waved looking at Ben's letter, and it was well he did ; for if he had, he might have seen enough, to have furnished him with

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74 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

some surmises, that he ought not to have let him obey the summons, notwithstanding the lady's great fortune and interest, as displayed by her servant. However, the old gentleman told him, that for once he thought he might go, but, that if his lady should have occasion to send for the boy any more, he desired she would send him a note in writing; and delivering William a ticket of leave, bid him carry that to Templeman, who would know what it meant; with which words, he flung to his door, without staying to receive either a bow, or thanks of William, who went off with the ticket dangling in his hand, scarce knowing the meaning, or whether he had obtained leave, or not.

This behaviour of the stewards, may be thus accounted for; though, he was somewhat furly and severe to the
boys

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 75

boys in publick, and not much better behaved towards their friends, who appeared in the lower class of life, and by whose conversation, or example he thought a boy might be in the least tainted in his principles, he was nevertheless very friendly and humane at the bottom, and had really the love of his boys at his heart, and ready, at all times, to do them all the service in his power; therefore, as he knew Templeman's sprightly temper and voice might be very likely to introduce him, imperceptibly, into such company as might debauch his morals, of which he had not the best opinion, and of which kind, he judged, all the gentry of the party-colour'd cloath to be: this was the reason of his behaving so furlily to William, whom, he suspected of forging a tale, to get Ben out along with himself, and others of his shoulder-knotted brethren,

76 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

whom he deemed very dangerous company, for such a youth to be with, as it seemed to him, that they would lead him into vices, he was as yet in all probability unacquainted with: We cannot then blame Mr. Henchman in this, but rather with, all who have the care of youth would follow his example, in the care of their bigger boys especially.

William, at his return into the cloisters, found Ben, waiting for him, who seeing the ticket, says, So I perceive you have gained the point; I suppose so, says William, though I scarce know myself. The old gentleman talked a great deal about the care of his boys, but, at last, bid me give you this, and threw the door in my face; I don't doubt but you know what it is for. Yes, says Ben, it is a ticket, to satisfy any impertinent fellow that
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we have leave to go out ; for, unless we can produce one, any meddling scoundrel may seize us, and would, perhaps, be paid for bringing us home : we ought to wear it at our breast in a button-hole, but, as that is often productive of being questioned what that is for, we of the upper end of the school, chuse to carry it in our pockets, to shew upon occasion, which but very seldom happens. But Sir, if you will please to wait a little, I will just step to my master, and acquaint him with your message, and that I have got leave to go with you, and, I am certain, he will excuse me from staying any longer at school, this afternoon. Ben accordingly went, and presently obtained liberty from Mr. Hodgson, who was a very good-natured worthy gentleman, though, like all mathematicians, apt to be very forgetful of every thing, but the science he professed, as was

78 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

the case at present, for presently after, when he came to the school, which he had forgot, had not the seeing Ben reminded him of it ; he had likewise forgot, that he had seen him, and enquired after him, but it was then too late ; he was gone, or, very probably, he might have stopt him ; however, he went to examining the rest of the boys and thought no more of it.

Ben, having obtained leave, both from the steward and his master, went to his ward to dress himself, desiring William to go along with him, but, upon recollection, thought it might be best to get something to stop his nurse's mouth, whom he judged would be offended at the party-coloured dress of his companion, though he had a gold laced waistcoat and gold shoul-der-knot ; he therefore gave William a shilling, and desired him to step to the Vine,
which

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 79

which was close to the hospital-gate, and get a pint of Mountain, to ask his nurse to drink a glass, which he knew would please her, and he would set a boy to shew him up into the ward; this William immediately complied with, and Ben went up into the ward to his nurse, and acquainted her with his being going out, telling her, that he was sent for by a great lady, who had been in the hall on Sunday night, to sing the anthem to her that was then sung. Ah child! says nurse, I doubt, your voice will be your ruin, as it draws you into too much company, and may at last debauch your morals, if you do not take great care of yourself.

Nurse here harped upon the same string as Mr. Henchman, though from a very different cause, for his fears were from a real concern for the well-fare of the youth; but hers, especially

80 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

as she heard it was a lady, who had sent for him, were from a fear of her daughter's losing him, as she thought she had some reason to expect him for a son-in-law, soon after he was out of the house; and was afraid, that Sukey would be undone, if she should miss him, as she was well assured the girl had a real affection for him, and could not be positive, how far matters might have been carried, as she knew of the adventure on the stairs. However, Ben replied to her speech; I hope, nurse, I shall be able to take care of myself, and not run any hazard now, for I find from her footman, who brought the letter, she is a lady of a vast fortune, and great interest, and, I am sure, she is a very good-natured lady; for she gave me fifteen shillings on Sunday, and, I make no doubt, but she will reward me well for my trouble.

Here

Here the footman arrived, and no sooner made his entry, at the bottom of the ward, than Mrs. Nurse, in her usual phrase, called out from the top, What do you want here, friend? Ben told her, he was coming to him. Oh! says she, if you belong to Templeman, come along, you'll excuse me, for we never suffer any one to come into our wards, but the boys friends; but pray come forward, and sit down, he will soon be ready. William, who understood his business, now came up, and told Ben, he had been and got a glass of wine, which he believed would not hurt him before he set out; to this Ben replied, that for his part he did not want any, but perhaps his nurse would like a glass, and they might drink together, while he dressed; to this nurse consented, and conducting William to her room, to shew that she was a woman of consequence, ordered her

82 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

maid to get a glass, though it was but just at her own hand, and William and she sat down, when the good woman began to be very full in praise of Ben, for whom she declared she had a very great regard; and hoped, that his being introduced into too much company, would not corrupt his morals, which she should be very sorry to hear; and a deal more of this cant, which the women have always ready, and is poured forth indiscriminately to all the boys friends, who call upon them, in hopes of the larger present; not that she could have any such hopes from William; but, as Ben's mother did not fail to fee her quarterly, she thought it her duty to speak well of him: and William, in return, was as liberal in the praise of his lady. Ben, being dressed in his best neck and sleeves, cambrick band, &c. returned, and the wine not being out, nurse insisted on his drinking

ing a glass to the lady's health, and taking the glass which was ready filled, says to William, Come, young man, here is your lady's health ; Templeman is a fine youth and very good-natured, I assure you ; I don't know what this may come to ; I have known many a lady do worse : William only smiled at this random expression of Mrs. Nurse, and filling Ben's glass and his own, after taking it off to his lady's health, they departed, leaving the rest of the wine for nurse.

William, who did not expect to see any of Ben's money for himself, thought it most prudent to walk part of the way, though his lady had ordered him to take a coach to the gate for Ben ; yet, by walking to Holborn, he thought he might gain a shilling, to pay for shoe-leather ; and accordingly set forward on foot, and walked to the Bars,

84 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

when William said, he believed that they had better take coach, as he was sure his lady would not dislike it; this Ben approved of, as it was dirty, and he had pretty well draggled his best (2) cots. Accordingly calling one, they got in together, William ordering the man to drive to Soho.

When they were seated in the coach, and Ben had wiped his cots, he began talking to William, as follows: You asked me, Sir, the use of my ticket; now, as we go along, I will tell you how I was once served myself, for the want of one, and how I escaped punishment. One day I had a mind to go out a hunting, as we call it; that is, taking our own pieces, or stealing another boy's, that may be better than our own; and tearing off the name, we carry them about to gentlemen's houses, to beg money; for which we are sure
to

to be punished, if we are caught, whether we have leave to go out or not. I had met with pretty good luck in this, at St. James's end of the town, and had a mind to try the merchants in the city; so taking my pieces both of writing and drawing, I (*a*) skulked out, and away I ran, for Mark and Mincing-lanes; but, as I was going along Fen-church-street, I was met by one of the governors, who was none of the best-natured; he not seeing my ticket, laid fast hold on my arm, and asked me, What business I had out without leave? this, coming suddenly upon me, staggered me, that I could not tell what to answer; but, after a little hesitation, I told him, I was going to see my mother, who was very sick, and the steward would not give me leave. Whether my manner of speaking gave him any distrust, or not, I cannot tell; but he immediately told me, I lied, and that he

86 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

he would send me home ; for he was sure, that if I told him truth, and my mother had sent for me, in such a case, the steward would not have denied me leave to go to see her ; and calling to a porter, who was unluckily passing by, bargained with him for a shilling, to see me safe home, and deliver me to the steward.

The porter accordingly took charge of me, nor did I offer to run away from him, but went very peaceably along with him ; meditating how to escape, though, in Cheapside I offered him sixpence to let me go, and tell the gentleman he had carried me home ; but he refused, saying, the gentleman had taken the number of his ticket, and would enquire of the steward, and if he found he had not obeyed his order, would have him punished. I then told him, I had a relation that lived in Newgate.

gate-Market, and I hoped he would let me call there, as perhaps I might get something : this was in hopes of escaping through some of the houses there, and getting away, (not that I was much afraid of being carried to the steward; for had he got me to the house, it was five to one but I had been hustled off by the boys before he could have come to Mr. Henchman's, and he would not have known how to find me again.) This last request he consented to, and I walked on pretty briskly to Newgate-Market ; where, going into one of the butcher's shops, who I told him was my relation, desired him to stay at the door, and I would presently be back again to him ; I walked boldly into the room behind the shop, here I found the butcher's wife, and telling her the same story I had told the governor, desired her to let me out at the back-door, for that if the man carried me home, I should

should be clogged and collared, and whipped besides. The good woman believing what I said, took pity on me, and told me, she was sorry that she had no back-door to let me through, but she would endeavour to help me if she could, and calling her husband, told him my tale, adding, that it was a pity I should be punished, for going to see a sick mother. Well, says the man, let the boy stay where he is a little, and we will soon send the porter off in a hurry ; then calling to his boy, Here, you Tom ; You rascal, you are quick enough at mischief ; see if you and your companions can't send that porter off for your mistress ; he is waiting for this boy, to carry him to the steward, and have him punished, for going to see his mother who is sick, without leave. Tom wanted no farther orders, nor would he, in all probability, have stayed for any, had he known what the por-

ter

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 89

ter waited for ; so catching up his bludgeon, which laid under the shop-board, out he goes, and hollows out to the rest of the boys, Here, you firs ! here is a porter, going to carry home one of the Blue-coat boys, for going out without leave ; let's hustle him as they do the bailiffs : the word was no sooner passed, but the porter found himself beset by the boys, who began to shove him about, and to threaten, if he did not get away they would roll him in the kennel, or duck him in a horse-pond : so that he was glad to go away, without his charge, lest he should have his head broke, as he saw some of the boys with their bludgeons in their hands, and therefore moved off, the boys hollowing him quite out of the market.

As soon as I knew the coast was clear, I thanked my protectress, and offering

offering to give the boy something to drink, who came back, and told us, they had drove him into Cheap-side, and he would be bound for him he would not come back again, to see for me; the good woman bid me keep my money, for she was sure Tom was satisfied with the sport. Ah mistress, cries the boy, it was a special hunt; all down Newgate-street into Cheapside: I then thanked the butcher, who was in the shop, and got safe home. As to the porter, he went back and demanded his shilling, telling the old gentleman, how he had been served; but as he had not done his business, but had let me escape, he refused to pay him, for some time; though he afterwards did; and the next day came to the Steward, at dinner time, and brought the porter with him, making an heavy complaint against one Elliot, as I had told the governor my name was,

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 91

was, but there was no such boy in the house; then they endeavoured to find the boy out, as it was one of the King's ward, he knew by his badge, but upon enquiry no one knew any thing of the matter, though half a crown and a ticket for a whole day was offered for any boy who would discover who it was, but nobody knew, and luckily they neither of them knew me again, nor was I ever discovered from that day to this.

CHAP.

C H A P. IX.

Ben arrives at the Lady's house, and what passed there.

TH E coachman, by the time Ben had done his story, had whipped on his jades, (who were neither of Priam's, nor Newmarket breed, but got in a farm-yard,) to the place he was ordered; where stopping to ask whither he was to go, William got out of the coach, and taking his proper place, bid him drive to the square, and he would tell him where to stop. William no sooner gave the word for him to stop, but the Lady, hearing the coach, was at the window, and William giving the signal of a nobleman at the door, she had the pleasure to behold Templeman come out of the coach. Mrs. Pinup, who was all a-gog to see the person, in whose praises her
Lady

Lady had been so lavish, being near the door opened it herself, which she would not have done, had it not been her curiosity to see Ben, who stepped out of the coach, and entered the house, with an air that surprised Mrs. Pinup, and she afterwards declared among the servants, that she had never seen the greatest gentleman appear with a better address.

William having paid the coachman, would have desired Mrs. Pinup to acquaint her Lady that the young gentleman was come, but she was beforehand with him, for having shewn Ben into the parlour, she ran up stairs and acquainted her Lady with his arrival; who presently came down, and entering the room, after having received and returned Ben's stiff bend, says, Young gentleman, I am glad to find myself so much in your favour, and
now,

94 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

now, as you are come, I may venture to promise myself, that you will not refuse the other part of my message. Madam, replies Ben, Ladies commands are always pleasing, and I am sure, I must be a very illnatured and ungrateful fellow, a title which I hope I never shall deserve, who could refuse any thing such a Lady as you should require. Here he happened to strike upon the right key to the Lady's heart: I am obliged to you for your compliment, replies she; but as we shall have time enough afterwards, if you please at present we will eat a bit of dinner; I imagine your school commons are not so large, but you can pick a bit of chicken after them; Ben thanked the Lady, and told her, that to be sure they were better taught than fed, yet, he thanked God, they had a sufficiency, if they knew when to be content; here the Lady rang the bell,
and

and William appearing, she ordered him to enquire how long it would be before dinner was ready; who presently returned, with answer from the cook, that it would be half an hour; upon this she seated herself, desiring her visitor to do the same, and, to pass the time, asked him several questions about the affairs of the house, and the management of the boys, and the like; telling him, she believed they were pretty severely handled. To which Ben replied, That to be sure among such numbers there would always be some bad, and that it was necessary to keep a strict discipline, but, he believed, there never was any one punished without deserving it; that for his part he could speak it by experience, that he must be a very good boy, or rather a dull stupid drone, who could go through such a school, from the bottom to the top, without ever being punished;

96 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

punished ; that a boy was never looked upon the worse for being now and then lashed, for an unlucky trick or two, but that it was a great shame to be punished for being a blockhead, or neglect of their learning, which he thanked God had never been his case.

In this and the like frivolous discourse they passed the time, till William arrived and acquainted the Lady that dinner was upon table ; upon which she conducted Ben to the dining-room, where being seated at the table, she desired him to say grace ; this brought a modest blush into the face of our hero, and indeed put him to some stand, as he knew no grace but that used in the house : however he managed the best he could, and came off pretty decently ; and now, reader, I might with as great solemnity as an old maid, just returned from an enter-

entertainment, recount to you the several dishes and the order in which they were placed, as well as of which, and how much every individual at the table eat, but shall, like some moderns, only give a hint to my readers, that Templeman's dinner did not seem to have palled his stomach: for after having picked a leg, and a wing, of a full grown (*b*) darning, he made an attack upon the pudding, and put William into the same fear, as Mrs. Pinup had betrayed in her orders to the cook; but the poor fellow had the good luck to extricate himself by the following stratagem, of which he is said to have been the author, though now well known, among other finesses to the knights of the Rainbow; if any one, they think, eats too much of any one particular dish, lest there should be none left for themselves, though the person should not have half done, yet if he

F

chance

98 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

chance to place his knife and fork across, away flies the plate, and is immediately replaced with a clean one, a plain hint for him to chuse something else. Thus, after the second slice, Ben having called for a glass of wine, to wash down what he had already eaten, intending, after he had drank, to have had a third half pound of the pudding, but unfortunately having crossed his knife and fork, while he was drinking, William conveyed away his plate and replaced it with a clean one of the best china, intended only for cheese or butter; though Ben did not understand the latter part of this hint, as the apple-pye remained untouched; and the Lady desiring him to help himself to a bit thereof, he took a full quarter on his own plate, and after eating it, called for a glass of wine; when William going to serve him the same trick as before, Ben, not being willing to be thus cheated the second time,

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 99

time, took the glass from his mouth and stopt him, telling him he had not yet done; and after finishing the wine to the Lady's health, seized the other quarter of the pye, and having finished it, he thanked the Lady for his good dinner, saying, he had never made a better meal in his whole life.

The cloth being now removed, and Ben having said the best grace he was able, the Lady, after a glass or two of wine, conducted him up stairs, into her dressing room, where, sitting herself down to the harpsichord, she began to play, and, in a little time, desired Ben to sing her favourite anthem, which he immediately complied with; making an apology for his want of a book, he sung it twice or thrice over, till the Lady had got some idea thereof; after which, she played several modish tunes and some songs, a few of which Ben sung to her;

100 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

She commended his voice and face, and above all his good temper, saying, that she was certain he would one of these days make a very good husband, and that she hoped he would meet with a woman equal to his merits. Ben replied it would be time enough, some years hence, for him to think of those things, but, that if the sea did not alter his temper, he believed, he should be good-natured to any woman, and he was sure, should he light of one with an handsome fortune he should never be ungrateful. Ben little thought what a random shaft he had now shot, but the Lady presently took it up, and replied, you think then, Mr. Templeman, you could be grateful to a wife, that's a rare thing in this age; nor do you know, how far power and money might alter you, in your sentiments of gratitude. They might, Madam, replies Ben, (with some warmth,) alter my dress and behaviour; but
power,

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. FOR
power, of which I have now my fill,
could never yet alter my temper ; and as
for money, that would only give me a
greater opportunity of shewing my gra-
titude to my benefactress ; indeed, ma-
dam, I must agree with the poet,

** He that's ungrateful has no crimes but one,
All other crimes may pass for virtues in him.*

I perceive indeed, says the Lady, Mr.
Templeman, that you have very high
ideas of the virtue of gratitude, and
hope, that if they should be put to the
test, they would not prove to be only
ideal ; then giving Ben her hand, says,
come, Sir, I believe by this time tea is
almost ready, if you please we will walk
down again into the parlour. .

Ben, who was not quite so ignorant
or continent, I know not which, as
Joseph Andrews, made bold to give the

* Young's Busiris.

Lady's hand a gentle squeeze, which she returned, with a look and a blush, which discovered to our hero more indeed than she intended ; for his thoughts and hers were widely different ; she thought of matrimony, but Ben never once dreamt of that, though he perceived she had some liking to his person ; he therefore made bold to lay hold of her hand again, and press it to his lips ; which the Lady with some seeming reluctance admitted, and only said, This is rather too bold, young gentleman.

They now sat down to tea, where the discourse principally ran upon the same subject of gratitude, for the Lady would not mention love, but with her eyes ; the artillery of which she played full on Ben, who though no adept, yet was not wholly ignorant of that artful language, and returned it with all the force he was able. Tea being ended, Ben
was

was taking his leave of the Lady and going home; but she desired him to sing her the anthem once more, while the coach was getting ready, protesting he should not walk home; this he complied with, and William had orders to tell the coachman to be at the door by eight of the clock; for she insisted on his making use of her own chariot.

William immediately obeyed, and went to the alehouse, where he found the coachman among his brethren of the whip: so coachee, says he, I have got a job for you, you must be at the door at eight of the clock to drive to the city; what! says Thomas, has the boy over-eat himself, or got drunk, that he cannot walk home? or I should think an hack might serve him, and not jade my horses, and dirty my carriage, with such luggage for nothing; well for once I will drive him, but if her Ladyship

has any more of these whims, I will either lame the horses, or overthrow the carriage and tumble him into the dirt; I should not think of sending Blue-coat boys home in a coach. I'd be d—m—d, cries a furly brother of the whip, if ever I would drive any of them, for the best Lady in the kingdom; what! cannot we, or their footmen, do their business well enough for them? there is William, is a clean made young fellow, one might think he might serve the turn. For shame Mr. Richard, says William, I do not look upon my Lady to be any such woman; and I can assure you the young man has a great deal of the gentleman in him, and seems to be very generous, and I do not doubt, Thomas, but we shall share some of my Lady's bounty to him; for as he has been singing to her ever since dinner, she will to be sure make him a handsome present. Well, says the coachman,

coachman, I'll be ready for once, I shall see how he behaves to us,—and shall act accordingly another time; William, after having drank and paid his pint, took his leave of the charioteers, leaving them to comment on his message among themselves; with which we shall not entertain our readers, as their language is in general too coarse to be entertaining.

Ben continued to divert the Lady at her harpsichord, with singing several tunes, after which they sat down together on a sofa; and he amused her with discourse, in which he prettily enough introduced the subject of love; not, as he said, from any knowledge of his own, but as he had heard and read in books; that he was too young ever to have experienced that flame; that all he knew of it towards the female sex, was only gratitude to a benefactress;

and, that if he thought he had that black spot of ingratitude, which the Persians suppose every man is born with in his heart; he would immediately open his breast, and cut it out. You have indeed, Mr. Templeman, replied the Lady, very high sentiments at present of this Is-angelic virtue; and if I was assured they would continue, I know not how far I might be induced to try you; for indeed I never conversed with any young gentleman of better sense; the common discourse of youth, being now a days, only high flights of noise and nonsense, tagged with some scraps from plays, or double entendre jests, which they make no scruple of throwing out in all companies.

The destined hour was now present, that the Lady must lose her beloved object; Mrs. Pinup arrived and acquainted them that the coach was at the door:
this

this message was received by her Lady with as much satisfaction, as the turnkey's when he acquaints the condemned criminal, that the cart waits for him at the gate. Ben rose to take leave, and told her he would wait on her again on Saturday and bring an anthem book with him, that he might entertain her better. Mrs. Pinup was ordered to bid William light candles in the parlour, and to light Ben down, the Lady desiring him to wait a few minutes and she would be with him and dismiss him; Ben followed his conductress and the Lady retired to her closet, where she sat down, and disclosed the sentiments of her heart towards her new acquaintance in a letter; for it was with her as it was with Medea in Ovid,

Dicere quæ puduit, scribere jussit Amor.

*'Tis love commands to write, what shame
forbids to speak.*

Which having folded and sealed carefully up, she summoned her maid and ordered her to put it up very carefully in a basket, with half a dozen bottles of Madeira, which wine she perceived Ben chose at dinner, and to order William to put them in the coach, and deliver them to Mr. Templeman when he came home. She then went down into the parlour, to Ben, who had waited near half an hour, though not with any great impatience, as he imagined the Lady was gone to her desk, to get money to make him a present. As soon as Pinup was retired, and had shut the parlour door, the Lady said, Mr. Templeman, you I presume must go, though I should have been very glad to have had your company at supper, for, I assure you, I do not know that I ever enjoyed a pleasanter afternoon in my whole life, but I hope it will not be long before I shall see you again. Ben replied,

plied, that he should have been very glad, had it been in his power, to have obliged her at present, but that the rules of the house must be observed, that he had staid rather too long already, and did not know how he might come off with the steward, for coming home so late; but that he would wait on her again on Saturday in the afternoon, if possible. If possible! replies the Lady, it must, it shall be possible; if any harm should be about to occur to you on my account, make the old fellow a present of his livery and come to me, I will make you full amends, and, as a token thereof, I beg you to accept this small favour from me; when taking a diamond ring from her finger, she placed it upon Ben's fourth finger of the left hand, whether by accident or with design I leave the reader to determine; and pulling out her purse, gave him
him

110 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

him a couple of guineas, which she said, she hoped would serve him for pocket money till she saw him again. Ben gave her a stiff bow, and told her he must beg the favour before he went, to give her a salute, in token of the sense he should ever retain of her favours. This the Lady not refusing, Ben threw his arms round her neck, and without any resistance tasted the delightful sweets of her lips, which had been little sucked away by her former husband; this roused him in a flame, the blood rushed all at once into his face, and his eyes darted fire on hers; but at last recovering himself, he said, Madam, I must bid you adieu; one last farewell; and giving her another salute, made his obeisance, which being returned by the Lady, and William summoned to light him out, he withdrew.

CHAP.

C H A P. X.

Templeman arrives safe at home. The conversation between old Allen, the footman and coachman.

OUR hero had no sooner seated himself in the chariot, and William shut the door, than Thomas gave the signal with his heel for his steeds to move forward; which was by those sensible animals, who had near as much knowledge as their driver, implicitly obeyed; and these being of a different breed from those that had before dragged him to the lady, sprang forward, and before he thought himself half way home, stopt in the Friars. William dismounted, and, with his usual dexterity, thundered at the gate: the porter was then sitting on the inside, smoaking his pipe, and hearing the chariot stop, and such a rattle at his gate, imagined

112 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

gined it must be some person of consequence ; but was well assured it was no one belonging to the house, as they did not make use of the proper signal ; however, not knowing whom it might be, he opened the gate, and let down the chain, when, to his great surprise, he beheld Templeman stepping out of the chariot, with the same ceremony as if he had been a nobleman. The old fellow was almost minded to have shut his gate again ; but as he knew he must be at the pains to open it again presently, he contented himself with calling out, Make haste there, I shan't let the gate stand open half an hour for you ! (for Ben had made a stop, in order to give William and the coachman something for their trouble in bringing him home ; when William having told him of the basket which he had for him, he waited to have taken it himself, but, upon the old fellow's exclamation, de-
fired

fired William to bring it in after him, and walked in himself.) For my part, I thought by your knock it had been some great gentleman coming to the treasurer ; and taking up his pipe again, which had gone out, fell to lighting it by his lanthorn ; by which means Ben escaped without any abuse from him, which he fully expected. But when William approached with his basket, he stopt him, saying, they did not suffer any one to come in there after nine o'clock, but those who belonged to the house ; and was going to shut the gate upon him, had not Templeman interposed, and told him he had a message for his nurse ; when the old fellow seeing the basket, imagined it might be some present ; and therefore as he would not hinder a sister officer of any thing, let him pass ; but bid him make haste back, for he should shortly carry the keys up, and then he could not get out
till

till next morning. William said nothing to this huffing old blade, but followed Ben up into his ward, where he saw what a person of consequence he was, when at home ; for he had no sooner entered than his servants appeared ; one making a leg, told him Mr. Such-a-one had been to enquire after him that afternoon ; and a second asked, if he would please to have his slippers and night-gown, for so they call an old coat which the seniors generally have by them, to wear in their wards, and sometimes to school in a morning. He bid them get about their business ; that he was not at leisure to speak to them yet ; but bidding his own boy stay, ordered him to take the basket of William, and carry it to his nurse's room, for he should unpack it there : and putting his hand into his pocket to make William a present found himself short of silver for his intentions ; he therefore
turned

turned to nurse, who was standing by, and asked her if she could change him a guinea, to which she replied, No ; but she could lend him a shilling, if he wanted ; and one of his own order, who was up, said he had five shillings in his pocket ; if that would do, he should be welcome to it. Ben replied, he thanked him, that would be sufficient, and taking it gave it to William, telling him there was something for him and the coachman for their trouble ; and putting also a couple of shillings in his hand, bid him ask the old fellow at the gate to drink a glass of wine when he went out ; for, says he, it may make him more civil another time. William bowed, and asked Ben when the chariot should come for him again ; tell the coachman, says he, to be here by two o'clock on Saturday. William now took his leave and departed ; and coming to the gate, found the old fellow there
with

116 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

with his pipe in his mouth, who opened the gate half way, with the chain up, for him to stoop under. You smoak a dry pipe, old gentleman, says William; ay, sometimes, says the old man, when I can get nothing to drink with it. I suppose, says William, you won't now refuse a glass of wine to moisten the tobacco; if you'll just step to the tavern here, it is at your service. The old fellow thanked him, but said he could not leave his gate; but for the value of half an hour he would call his wife to look after it, and would wait on him. William staid at the gate while the old fellow hobbled down the lodge for his wife, when they went both out together. Thomas, seeing his fellow-servant, called out, Z—nds, William, what makes you stay so long? my horses will take cold; never mind your horses, boy, replies William; I have something to warm them; this
gentle-

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 117

gentleman and I are going to drink together, and if you'll take part you are welcome ; your horses, I warrant, will stand still enough. Then, says Thomas, I must clothe them, and I'll be with you presently.

William and the porter went into the tavern kitchen, where, upon his calling for a bottle of wine, old Allen told him he should rather chuse punch, as he could not stay ; upon which he ordered it to be changed for a bowl of punch. While it was making, William enquired after Templeman, what sort of a young man he was, as to his temper and behaviour ; the old man answered, the lad was well enough, and good-natured ; it was true, he had been a wild unlucky boy, but that now, as he grew up, and had got to the head of the school, he had, he believed, left off his wild pranks, and was grown a well-behaved

118 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

behaved youth. I am sure, says William, he has a generous spirit ; as for that, says the old fellow, our boys have not much to be generous with ; it is true, I now and then get a shilling from some of the upper ones for hush-money, that I may not carry their names up to the Steward, when they come home after the gates are shut. Is that the case, says William, I hope then you'll favour Mr. Templeman, and I can assure you, you'll be no loser by it : Why, says the old man, for once I'll take no notice of it, unless I am questioned about what time he came home ; for as the Steward gave him leave to go out, perhaps he may ask what time he came home ; but then I can say, it was a full half hour sooner, and there will be an end of it. The punch was now brought, and Thomas arrived, when William handing the bowl to the porter, told him he'd pledge him ; they
having

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 119

having drank round, Thomas began to enquire how the young man had behaved ; Why, says William, very generously, I assure you ; there's half a crown for you, and the same for myself ; he gave me a crown, and told me it was between us. Why that's generous, says the old man ; it is an estate for a Blue-coat boy ! Ay, says Thomas, but we can guess where the money came from ; 'tis well if he has not sunk half in his own pocket. I believe not, replies William, for he had only a guinea in his pocket, and was obliged to borrow silver to give me ; and you can't suppose, Thomas, that my lady would give him a guinea for us ; I rather think she gave him a guinea, but left it to his own generosity to reward her servants, and would be angry if she knew we took any thing of him, as she gave me a strict charge to-day to the contrary ; but, if we keep our own counsel,

fel, he'll hardly tell her himself; and should she ask me, I can get off, by telling her, that he gave me something to make this gentleman drink, which you see I have done, and then she'll be satisfied, and think nothing of ourselves, if we don't blab; then, says the old fellow, as this is Templeman's treat, here's his health; he is a good-natured lad; I shall say nothing of his coming in to-night; and Thomas declared, that he should have no objection to driving him again; that's right, says William, you must be here again on Saturday, at two o'clock precisely, with the chariot, to fetch him to our house to dinner again. The bowl being now out, and William having paid for it, they departed; the old man to look after his gate, and Thomas and William home with the chariot.

C H A P. XI.

*What Ben finds in the basket, and his nurse's
sage remarks.*

THE reader may, perhaps, by this time, be as tired with reading the conversation of the tavern kitchen, as myself in writing it ; and would be glad to know what were the contents of the basket, and the letter, which has already been told him was put into it ; which, if he can but have patience to stay till Ben is undrest, he shall know.

No sooner was William gone, than Ben called his lacquey, to bring him his slippers, and soon dismantled himself of his necks, sleeves, and band, that they might serve again on Saturday ; and slipping on his old coat, which his boy also brought him, he went up to

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his

122 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

his nurse's room, who was then going to supper ; she complaisantly asked him if he wou'd eat a bit with her ; which he refused, saying, he had made so hearty a dinner, that he was not in the least an hungry, and would see what there was in the basket, which he knew nothing of till he got out of the coach ; he then fell to unpacking ; and pulling out a bottle, and feeling more, said, I believe, Nurse, here is something will make our hearts merry ; you have no occasion to send for your pint to night ; but, if you please, I'll ask my own order to drink a glass to the donor's health, for I find here is plenty ; and whatever liquor it is, I am sure it must be good. Child, says the good woman, it begins to grow late, and you know they must not sit up after ten ; but for once you may do as you please, but hope you will be satisfied with one bottle among you ; I shall only drink a
single

single glass to the Lady's health, whoever she is. Ben went on unpacking, till he pulled out the whole half dozen; and feeling farther, laid hold on a purse, which he perceived to have something weighty in it; this he flipt flyly into his pocket, and taking up at the same time the letter that lay directly under it, was going to read it; but finding something else in the bottom, laid it down, till he had examined the whole contents, and took out a cold fowl, some slices of tongue, and a paper of sweet-meats: For his person and behaviour had made that impresson on Mrs. Pinup, that that sagacious gentlewoman, who thought that he should have something to eat, as well as to drink, had added these last of her own accord to her mistress's order. Ben, taking the fowl in his hand, which was in a clean sheet of writing paper, says, Come, Nurse, you may leave off eat-

124 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

ing your mutton ; I believe I can pick a bit of fowl, and here is a very fine one. 'No, child !' replies Mrs. Nurse, none for me ; I have just done, but if you please you may save it for your dinner to-morrow, when I may pick a bit with you, for indeed it is a very fine one. Sarah, get a plate, to put Mr. Templeman's fowl in, and set it by safe. Ben laid the fowl on the plate, and offered nurse a slice of tongue, which the good woman accepted ; he took a bit himself, and laying the rest on the plate, with the fowl, gave it to the maid, to set by till the next day. Then, having called his comrades, sat down with Mrs. Nurse, and broached a bottle.

The boys were no sooner called than they attended, as they were not in bed, and having taken their seats, Ben filled them each a bumper, to the Lady's health,

health, but did not mention her name; only said she was a fine woman, and very generous. Ah child! says Nurse; but I am afraid, you had best take care of her, and not trust yourself too far with her, for fear her generosity may be your ruin. What can any modest virtuous Lady see in a Blue-coat Boy, to be so very fond of him at first sight? I am really afraid, Ben, that you will be ruined, and then, I'm sure, my poor Sukey will cry her eyes out for you. Sukey, who was present, was now as red as scarlet; indeed she had not the same fears with her mother, of losing him, for she thought she had engrossed too much of his affections for him to forsake her; and, that by the help of this new acquaintance, he would be able to make her some handsome presents, as little suspecting as Ben, what was hatching; and therefore replied, No, Mother! I am sure Mr. Temple-

126 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

man will take very great care of himself, and not let the gentlewoman hurt him ; though she may make him a present for entertaining her with an anthem, or a song, now and then ; she can have no design, I'm sure, upon his person, and if she has, Mr. Templeman knows how to avoid it : but you are always so very suspicious ;—I'm sure, **for my part**, I can't see any cause you **have** for it. Ah child ! says her mother, you have not seen enough of the world to know any thing of the matter ; no, nor Templeman neither.

During this sagacious discourse between the mother and her daughter, Ben was employed in reading his letter, which caused his colour to come and go, being at one time as red as scarlet, and then presently changed to a milk white. This was not unnoticed by Nurse, though he did not perceive it him-

himself,—but putting the letter into his bosom, said, I think I need be in no fear, Nurse, from this Lady, either of my person or my reputation, for I can assure you, she is all honour, and strictly virtuous. But gentlemen, says he to his companions, why don't you drink? Come, we'll see this bottle and another out, and then we'll go to bed: Nurse, let me pledge you, and let us leave off this discourse for the present. Nurse now took her glass, and commending the liquor, said she would drink another glass; but she was afraid two bottles would be too much for them, for it was very strong, and they were not used to such liquor: Oh! replies Ben, I warrant we manage it; here is seven of us, and my boy and the maid must come in for a glass; but, let your maid set by the rest, if you please, Nurse, and I shall be obliged to you, for I have no where to put them safe. Ben now be-

gan to put the bottle about, and told them the transactions of the afternoon, except some particular parts, which he thought proper to conceal; and when he mentioned that he came home in her own coach, for that she would not suffer him to ride in an hack; and pulling out a guinea, said, See, here is the produce of the afternoon; Ay, but says one of the others! you have given away almost half of it, and owe me a crown; Yes, replies Ben, but if that and its fellow will but last till Saturday, I care for no more; I shall have more then, I warrant; for I must then go to her again, and carry an Anthem book with me; you heard me order the coach. I think, says another of the boys, you are grown a fine gentleman, to step into your coach, before you are out of your blue cloaths; you'll make a fine fellow to go to the mast head, one of these days: When I come to it, replies Ben,

I war-

I warrant I shall do as well as any of you ; but perhaps that may never be my fortune ; I hope to be better provided for. This altercation might have gone on some time, had not Nurse stopt it, by saying, If Mr. Templeman has, by a lucky accident, procured himself a friend, you have no reason to be angry, my lads, at it : You would any of you, I suppose, be glad to be in his place ; but it is late ; make haste with your wine, and get to bed ; when filling herself a bumper, and her daughter another, says, Come, Mr. Templeman, here is your Lady's good health ; I hope she is as honourable as you think her ; but take care she don't deceive you : I hope not, replied Ben, and drinking his glass, filled it again for the next, for they had not every one a glass. He now called his boy, and having given him a glass of wine, bid him get him a candle, which being brought, and the

130 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

liquor out, except about a glass or two, which he said he would leave for the maid, he and his companions bidding Nurse a good night, departed to their respective beds. Ben, being now alone with his faithful confidant, took out his letter, and after kissing it, he read as follows.

Dear Templeman,

THE high sentiments you expressed this afternoon, of gratitude and honour, have induced me, to make trial of you; if my fortune is worth your acceptance, together with the clog that is annexed to it, it is at your service. The reservedness of my sex, forbids me to make you that offer in words, which I can do without a blush in writing; my chariot shall attend you on Saturday, when I expect an answer to this from your own mouth; I shall be uneasy till I see you again; you may assure yourself, my de-
signs

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 131

signs and desires are truly the most honourable, and without thought of imposing on your youth and inexperience.

I am, (if you chuse it,) eternally yours,

HANNAH ———

P. S. You'll find something when you come home, for your present use, and I would recommend to you, to provide yourself with a good suit of cloaths, against Saturday, as I purpose to introduce you to his Grace of ———, who will drink tea with me, and it will not be so proper for you to appear before him in your present livery, as in an handsome suit of apparel.

Ben, after reading this and considering it, clapt it to his breast, and in extasy cried out, sweet, good, good woman, I am wholly yours! Then turning to his boy, said, My fortune is made, and I will make yours, if

132 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

money can do it; his faithful confident thanked him, and said he wished it might be true; True! cries Ben, why here she offers me her whole fortune, which is vastly great, I dare say not less than ten thousand pounds; if I take her, which I suppose she means by the clog along with it, and do you think I would refuse such an offer? no, I have a great mind to discharge myself to-morrow, and go to her; for one angry word from the Steward I will do it; for, she bid me, if I was found fault with, for staying out, give him his dirty livery, and she would take care of me. I then little thought what she meant, and though I am, it is true, but young, yet, I will do my endeavour to make her as good an husband, as I possibly can, and will never prove ungrateful to her, for her kindness; but *you Sir!* don't you offer to blab a word of this, to any one, for though I can
pretty

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 133

pretty well promise for your fidelity, yet, this is such an affair, that without great caution, I am afraid you will be apt to talk; enough is known already and too much; so don't you let any more go from you: the boy promised faithfully that he would not. Then Ben proceeded to examine his purse, wherein he found a ruby heart set in diamonds and fifty golden guineas, a sum which he had never before been possessed of, nor scarce seen at one time, unless it might have been, on some bankers counters in Lombard-street. This was to him a full proof of the Lady's sincerity, and taking one of them in his hand, says to his boy, there *you Sir*, I give you that, as a bribe for your silence. I thank you, Sir, says the boy, I was never so rich in my life, and I am sure I will never mention a word of what you tell me.

They

134 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

They now went to bed, where, to his faithful companion, he recounted all the adventures of the afternoon, and as he himself could not sleep, so neither would he let his bedfellow, but kept talking to him all night, of the good nature and generosity of the Lady, and consulting what colour his cloaths should be of; for he had determined to obey her, but how to procure the cloaths he knew not: it is true, he had money, but knew not how to use it, in this respect. He at last thought of a taylor, with whom he had some small acquaintance, whom he proposed to get, the next day, to go with him, to buy them, on whose judgment he would rely. After this, he dropt asleep, and as the boy afterwards declared, had nearly smothered him with caresses: being in reality, in the same mistake, as *Iago* describes *Cassio* in *Othello*.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

Mr. Henchman's behaviour on the next day.

N O sooner had Aurora unbarred her doors, whilst Phœbus was harneſſing his horſes, and making ready his chariot, than Ben's faithful lacquey awaked his maſter, telling him the bell had rung, and that it was almoſt break-
faſt time ; Ben immediately got up and dreſſed, and upon the ſummons of the ſecond bell, went into the hall to break-
faſt, where, upon Mr. Henchman's entering, he delivered him his ticket ; who, as he had met with nothing that day to ruffle him, aſked him, with a ſerene countenance, Pray, young gentleman, (an appellation he often made uſe of, to the upper boys, with a kind of a ſneer) what time came you home laſt night? About nine a clock, Sir, ſaid Ben ;

If

136 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY:

If it was no later, replies the old man, it is very well, but, I shall enquire, and hope you do not tell a lie. You may ask any of the Ward, Sir, says he, they were not all a bed. No, no, says the old gentleman, I can as well believe you as them, for they will all be in the same tale, and if you was to say fix a clock, they would vouch it, but I shall make a better enquiry. As you please, Sir, replies Ben, I believe you will find it as I tell you.

For this indeed he was prepared; for that they might be all in one story, old Allen had been up in the ward, before breakfast, to consult with Mrs. Nurse: where Ben had given him a hearty glass of his Madeira, and they had agreed, that if any questions should be asked, to say it was about nine a clock, as he told the Steward.

I hope

I hope the Lady rewarded you for your trouble, and gave you good entertainment ; says Mr. HENCHMAN. Yes Sir, that she did, I assure you, replies he ; she made me a very handsome present, and bid me come again, if I could, on Saturday, which, I hope Sir, you will give me leave to do. We will talk of that when Saturday comes, answers the Steward, I must be thoroughly assured what time you came in last night, and in what order, before I can give you an answer ; but if I thought it would be any thing to your advantage, I would never be your hinderance ; for, whatever you may think of me, I would be an enemy to none of you ; Ben bowed and retired to his place.

No sooner was breakfast ended, than Mr. HENCHMAN went to Mrs. NURSE, to enquire after what time Ben came home ;

138 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

home; and in his way met the porter; and asking him if Templeman came in at his gate the overnight, he replied, Yes, at about nine a clock, he did not justly know whether the clock had struck or not, but it was as much as it had. Pray did you see how he was? says Mr. Steward, I hope he was sober; I did not take any great notice of him, replies the old fellow, that was none of my business; he came home in a chariot, with a footman at his heels, who carried a basket of something up into the ward; I suppose his nurse can inform you more, if you want to know.

The Steward then left the porter, and proceeded on his journey up two pair of stairs to nurse, who was already prepared for him, as she had heard of his intentions, from some of the boys: he therefore no sooner entered,

tered, than after the usual greeting, she says, I suppose, Sir, you are come to enquire what time my Templeman came home last night; I assure you he kept very good hours, for he was in the ward presently after nine, and brought home with him some of the finest wine I ever tasted; he gave me and my daughter each of us a glass last night, and a glass a-piece to every one of his own order, as they were not gone to bed; let me recommend a glass to you, Mr. Henschman, this morning; I am sure Templeman won't grudge it you, for he has got plenty; I hope he had not been too free with it yesterday? says the Steward: Not in the least, I assure you Mr. Steward, the lad was as sober as a judge, (and so she would have said, had she been obliged to have seen him put to bed) but do, continued she, Mr. Henschman, let me recommend one glass to you,
it

it will do you good this morning, for it is a perfect cordial. I thank you, Mrs. Nurse, answered the Steward, 'tis very seldom that I taste any such thing in a morning, but for once, as you commend it so much, I will just taste it.

Nurse immediately got a full bottle, and a large glass herself, and drawing the cork poured out a full glass, which she recommended to Mr. Henchman, who asked for a crust of bread; oh dear, says she, I had forgot it, would you like a slice of cold tongue with it? I have some as fine as ever was tasted; this last he refused, but having mumbled his crust, he took the wine, and tasting it, said, indeed, Mrs. Nurse, you say right, this is as fine a glass of Madeira, as ever I had in my cellar, and I think I never tasted better, though in my time I have sold several thousand pipes, when I kept the Bull's head in
Glasses.

Grafs-church street. I am glad to hear you commend it Sir, replies nurse, for I am sure you are a very good judge; take another glass to the Lady's health, she has behaved very well to Templeman; but, I wish things may end well, and that she don't turn the boy's head; for she sent him home last night in her own coach, and, as he says, made him a very handsome present for his trouble, in singing to her almost all the afternoon; I hope she has no bad design upon the poor lad; for alas! he is but young, and unthinking; but I can assure you, Mr. Henchman, he had a fine diamond ring upon his finger, which he says she gave him, and bid him wear it for her sake; and I saw him read a letter which he found in the basket he brought home last night, and his colour went and came several times, as he read it: I know not what it was about, nor what all
this

this may end in, but I suppose we shall hear more to-morrow, for he is to go to see her again; I heard the footman ask him, when he would please to have the chariot; and he, as if he had been his master, ordered him to tell the coachman, to be here on Saturday, at two of the clock, for him; I hope Madam has no bad design upon him, if she has not, she may do him a great deal of good.

Indeed, says Mr. Henchman, she has it in her power, and if her designs are honest, it may be a very lucky turn for the boy; though, as you observe, he is in my opinion too young for her, to have any thoughts of him for an husband, though one does not know what fancies women sometimes may take: she is a young widow, and immensely rich, for her late husband, old *Getall* (as the world says) died
worth

worth near half a million, and left it all at her disposal, and he has not been dead above nine months; it is true, she earned all his money, for she was a most indulgent wife, and he as great a brute of an husband. I knew him and have dealt with him formerly, upon which account he used sometimes to call at my house, for a jill of wine; and with that he would eat a pound of cold ham, or beef, or whatever he found, and bread in proportion; so that there was nothing got by him, no more than by any bargain a person made with him. I have bought many a pipe of wine of him, but they always came in, so lowered, that I could make nothing more of them, than the bare profit, allowed in the retail trade, which will never answer for a vintner, considering the great expences we are at, in servants and all other articles, as fire and candle, house
rent

rent and the like; well Mrs. Nurse, the Lady's health, hoping her designs are honest towards the lad, though I must enquire farther into this affair of the ring you tell me of: I will send for the boy to come to my house, and will examine him by himself, when if he will deal ingenuously with me, I may be his friend: I have great reason to think that he will be very candid, for he seems to have left off all his former wild tricks, and to be grown a sober steady youth, and is much better behaved in point of manners, than any of the rest of his order.

Mr. HENCHMAN now departed, and returning to his house, ordered tea to be got ready, saying, he should have occasion to breakfast by himself in his closet, and calling his boy, bid him give his compliments to Mr. HODGSON,
and

and desire him to let Templeman come and breakfast with him.

As this message, according to Mr. Hodgson's calculation, boded no ill to Templeman, he therefore complied with it, and let him go. Ben would have been very glad to have excused the favour, for though he saw no fear of punishment, yet he was afraid, he should be obliged to discover more than he chose should be known, but never so much as dreamt that nurse had blabbed out his ring, which, by turning the stones inward, he had taken care to conceal from Mr. Henchman's observation at breakfast; but as there was no avoiding it, he went to breakfast with the old gentleman, with as good a will, as a thief attends Sir John upon his honour's warrant, looking upon the boy who brought

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the message, in no much better light than the other does the constable.

When he came to the Steward's, he was conducted to him in his study or closet, where the tea and rolls were ready, and as soon as the servant was gone and he had taken a chair and sat down, Mr. Henschman began with great professions of regard for him, and all his boys; for though, as he observed, he was obliged to behave sternly among them, yet he sincerely loved them, and would not on any account have any of them do amiss, at their first coming into the world: that though they obliged him often to punish them, yet it was purely out of love, for their own sakes, to prevent their running into destruction. Ben said nothing, though he thought he had had his full share of this latter love; and again ideally felt his close embraces

embraces on his posteriors and shoulders, from the former of which, he had extracted many an ounce of blood, as a token of his favour. Now child, continues the old gentleman, give me leave to ask you a few questions of this lady, you went to see yesterday, for your nurse has told me some very surprizing stories. If I find you deal candidly and openly with me, you shall find me as much your friend, as you may ever have thought me your enemy: your nurse told me, you had a very handsome ring on, last night, pray let me see it. Ben extended his hand, and shewed it to him on his finger, which the old gentleman taking hold of, and looking on the ring, said, This indeed is a very fine one, and true brilliants; pray how might you come by this, for I can assure you it is very valuable? The good Lady, Sir, says Ben, gave it me, and bid me wear

148 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

it for her sake. But why, child, should you wear it on that finger? Because Sir, says Ben, she herself put it on, and it has not been off ever since; this seems to me, young gentleman, to be somewhat mysterious, but if it is true, the present and the manner of her giving it, seems to shew more than you I believe are able to perceive; and that she expects from you, a plain one in return, delivered in the same manner, though with a little more ceremony. I can't tell, indeed Sir, says Ben, but I am rather too young, for the Lady to have any such thoughts, as you seem to suspect; perhaps, says Mr. Henchman smiling, she may think otherwise; it is certain she has a design upon you, but whether a very honourable one to herself, or no, I cannot tell: but however base it may be, it will not be any great reflection on you, as times now are, and be it what
it

it will, she has money enough to pay well for your trouble; but I hope nothing material has yet passed between you, more than your singing her an anthem, or a song or two. Upon my word Sir, says Ben, there has not, and related to him the whole afternoon's discourse: indeed, says the steward, this is something strange, that a Lady of so great fortune should take such a liking to you, at first sight; though I must needs say, without a compliment, that you are no despicable personage, in the eyes of any one, and will, when you are better dressed, make a more comely appearance: but, child, your nurse told me farther, that she observed some sudden emotions in you, upon reading a letter which you found in the basket you brought home with you; I should be glad if you would shew me the contents of that; I may perhaps be able to give you

better directions, and you may assure yourself, will not disclose it to any one, though it should not please me, for depend on my friendship to you, in this affair, and that I will serve you all that lays in my power; Ben, encouraged by these professions of friendship, and knowing by experience, that Mr. Henchman was a man strictly observant of his promises, as he had received weighty demonstrations thereof, he produced his letter, though not without some reluctance.

The old gentleman, fadling his nose, conned it over to himself, with great deliberation; and having thoroughly weighed every expression, says, This letter, young man, seems, if I understand it right, to carry some shew of a great honour designed you; I am now no longer at a loss for her having put that ring on your finger; this explains

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 151

plains her meaning; if she is sincere, you will be a very happy young man, for I can assure you, she is of a very good temper, and will make you master of a large fortune; you will now, in all probability, have no occasion to go to sea; your fortune is made, and if it be not your own fault, you will soon be one of the richest men in London; but should her designs not be the most honourable, yet she has here put it in your power, should she marry any other, to lay claim to one half of her fortune; though from the expression, “the clog it is incumbered with—and my designs are the most honourable—eternally yours; I make no doubt but she intends you for her second. It is true you are young, but we can say nothing for the caprices of women, especially a young widow, of her complexion; well, I will be of all the service I can to you, but would

152 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

recommend to you, to keep it as secret as possible, till it is finished; she intends on Saturday to introduce you to the duke of ——, who is her supposed father, as I have heard, and perhaps to ask his consent, though she has no occasion for it, only in complaisance; her fortune being such, that she need not fear disobliging him, or any man on earth. I heartily wish you joy, Sir, of your conquest; but pray, what money did she give you, to supply yourself with cloaths, as she here desires?

Ben had now gone too far to recede, and therefore pulling out a green and gold purse, shewed Mr. Henchman the fifty guineas, he having supplied that he gave his boy from his own pocket. This, says the old gentleman, will cloath you very handsomely, but it must be done with great secrecy,

secrecy, as you are not yet discharged, though, if I guess right, it will not be long before you are; yet, these are matters that must not be done openly: If you will accept of my service, I will direct you to proper persons for linen, and stockings to-day, and will go with you to-morrow morning, to buy the rest of your cloaths; as they must be had ready made, there being not time now to make them.

Ben thanked him for his kindness, and had now so much confidence in his promise, that taking his heart from his shirt bosom, said, this too, Sir, I found in the purse, with the money. The steward looking upon it, said, this heart I remember very well, it was the only thing of value, her former husband, old *Getall*, ever wore, and that he said, he wore in honour of his wife; as it was her present, on his

154 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

wedding day : I have often heard him say, that it cost near two hundred pounds ; and I believe, had he known how she would have disposed of it, he would have had that, and every thing else buried with him ; but I hope, young gentleman, you will endeavour to return the Lady's kindness to you, with all the gratitude and sincere love in your power : and that, when you come into the possession of your fortune, which I see you will soon have, you will remember me. This, the old gentleman added, for a reason which I presume my reader but little suspects ; but if he can wait with patience, till more important matters are settled, he shall hear.

Ben, in return to this last speech of Mr. Henchman, replied, I hope, Sir, no one yet could impeach me of the least ingratitude, in my whole life ;
whatever

whatever I may have been guilty of, that is a crime, I am sure none could ever lay to my charge; and I hope, I shall never be guilty of. And for love, I must, to be sure, Sir, give all the returns in my power, to so great a benefactress, or I should be as great a villain to her, as she is a friend to me. I am glad, Templeman, says the Steward, to hear you have such sentiments, and I hope you will improve them; but, I think, it is now time for you to return to school, and call upon me at eleven a clock, and I will give you directions to a milliner's and hosier's, that will not deceive you. Ben then made his bow, thanked him, and withdrew, glad to be dismissed, but more glad that instead of being scolded at, he had found Mr. Henschman in so friendly a disposition, as by his former behaviour, he had not the least

156 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

thought of expecting any favour from his hands..

Soon as the joyful bell told the boys to lay their books aside, and betake themselves to play, our hero went again to visit Mr. Henchman; who, though he was not at home, had left a couple of notes for him, one for the milliner and another for the hosier; which were delivered him by his youngest daughter, who told him, her papa was gone out upon business, but that he had left those notes for him to carry, and that he was to call at five a clock again, but he must take care to be back by dinner, as he would be wanted, for her papa would not be in the hall. He took the notes, and going first to the milliner's, which was only in the long-walk, he purchased two shirts, one ruffled and the other plain, and gave orders for four more,

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to be made up with all expedition, with proper stocks. Then going to the hosier's, which was in Smithfield, he bought himself four pair of fine white cotton stockings, and two pair of black worsted, and a plain hat, though his friend Mr. Henchman thought fit to change it, for an handsome fashionable laced one. He also bought himself silver buckles, both for his shoes and knees, and an handsome stone stock buckle; and two pair of neat turned pumps. For all which he had laid out near ten pounds of his money. Ben then returned home, and after the boys had dined, regaled himself with his nurse, on his cold fowl and a glass of Madeira; but blamed her for mentioning any thing to Mr. Henchman about his ring, as it might have taken a different turn, from what it had. When the bell summoned him, he returned to the school for the afternoon,

158 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

ternoon, where, instead of chewing the dry cud of Mathematicks, we shall leave him feasting his fancy with the rich diet of love, and forming schemes for his future conduct in life.



C H A P. XIII.

Mr. Henchman visits the Lady.

BEN had scarce left the steward, than Mr. Henchman dressed himself, and knowing where she lived, went to pay a visit to the Lady, in order to satisfy himself farther, in her design towards his ward, for in that light he esteemed all the boys in the house. When he arrived at her house, he sent up his name, and that he had some very particular business with her: he was accordingly introduced into the parlour,

parlour, where the Lady soon came to him ; after the first compliments were passed, the old gentleman began, Madam, I am the Steward of Christ's Hospital ; I am sorry I have interrupted you ; but I have a small matter which I beg leave to mention to your Ladyship : you was so kind as to send yesterday for one of our boys, to drink tea with you ; I hope he did not misbehave himself : No, Sir, replies the Lady, not at all ; he is really a fine young gentleman, and I have a great regard for him, and hope you will give him leave to come again to-morrow : Madam, replies Mr. HENCHMAN, your commands shall be obeyed, if I am not deceived in what he told me ; which, indeed, I waited on you to know the truth of ; he brought home with him a fine diamond ring, which, he says, you presented him with. As I was somewhat dubious of this, I took the
oppor-

160 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

opportunity of waiting on you. Sir, says the Lady, I assure you he told you the truth ; I gave it him, desiring him to wear it for my sake.

I hope, Madam, says the old gentleman, you'll pardon my boldness ; Pray, what may you expect in return ? As I represent the guardians of the youth, it is necessary for me to ask a question or two of this sort ; for it will not become us to have any of our boys misled by any person, how great or how rich soever they may be. Sir, says the Lady, all over scarlet, I cannot discommend your enquiry, and can assure you that I require nothing from the young gentleman, but what will correspond with the strictest rules of honour and virtue ; he is, it is true, young, but he is endued with excellent sense, and, I believe, from the conversation I had with him, truly virtuous : Indeed, Sir, I so much
approve :

approve of him, that I intend to put my whole person and fortune into his possession, in a few days time, as soon as proper measures can be taken for it; and if you will do me the favour to give him my hand, I shall esteem it a favour from you. You do him, replies Mr. Henchman, a great honour, Madam; but he is too young, in my opinion, to take care of your effects, and may be very liable to be tricked by every one he has to deal with, through inexperience; not but he has sense enough, but wants practice in the ways of the world. As to this, Sir, replies the Lady, I have but a very small landed estate; and the affairs of my house I can manage myself, or, I thank God, my fortune is sufficient to keep a steward for those things, whose accounts, I make no doubt, Mr. Templeman can inspect. He may be able to see that they are right cast, Madam, replies Mr. Hench-

162 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

Mr. HENCHMAN ; and as your fortune is principally in the funds, it will not be so difficult to look after it ; in a little time he may make you a very good steward himself, when he comes to be acquainted a little more in the world : I can assure you, he has sense enough, and will not be easily imposed on ; and, as I find, Madam, your intentions are so honourable towards the youth, I will do all in my power to serve him ; but as he is not of age, he must have the consent of his mother or guardian, to obtain a licence. That, Sir, says the Lady, he shall send for to-morrow, and I cannot imagine he will meet with any difficulty in gaining it, though I should have been glad to have done it without. And then, Sir, if you will be so kind as to go to the Commons with him, you will oblige me, and I dare say Mr. Templeman will make you a grateful return for your trouble.

Madam,

Madam, replies Mr. HENCHMAN, I believe this matter may be done without troubling his mother; the house is the guardian of all the children, and, if you think proper, I can apprise the Treasurer of your intentions, and gain his consent; which, I may venture to say, as it will be so much to the youth's advantage, will be easily obtained: Then, Madam, I can procure you a licence directly; — Sir, I thank you, replies she, for your advice, and will wait on the Treasurer myself; and must beg the favour of you not to take any farther notice of this affair to any one, till it is finished; when I have seen Sir George, which will not be long first, I shall call upon you, and accept of your offer.

Mr. HENCHMAN now took his leave of the Lady, promising her all the assistance in his power, and assuring her, that

164 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

that her favourite should wait upon her the next day; and being now fully satisfied of the Lady's intention, returned home. When Ben came to him at five o'clock, he wished him joy of his good fortune, telling him, that he was now fully assured of the Lady's intentions towards him. That he hoped he would take care to deserve her favour, by his future conduct—that he would, at another opportunity, give him a little advice, and should be ready to do him all the service in his power, at any time hereafter.

He now went with him to a salesman's, where they found a very handsome suit of blue cloth, with silver buttons and button-holes, and silver knee-straps, which had been made for a young gentleman of fortune; but he dying before they had been worn,
were.

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 165

were returned upon the taylor's hands, who had left them with the salesman to be sold. As these, with a very little alteration, fitted Ben, they were purchased, together with a blue sattin waistcoat, laced with broad silver lace, which Mr. Henschman advised him to wear the next day, over a flannel one, which was also bought; for he told him, as he had been used to thick clothing, it would be necessary for him at first to put on an under waistcoat, to prevent his taking cold: but as these things could not be well sent to the house, as the boys were not allowed to wear any cloaths but their own; so they were ordered to be sent to the Fountain Tavern, without Newgate, and to be ready by the next day at one o'clock. They then returned home, and in their way called at the Fountain, to acquaint the master of the house of the things being to be left

166 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

left there ; which was a place of Ben's own chusing, and whither he had ordered his hat, and the other things which he had bought ; he having been sometimes at that house, and was a little acquainted with the landlord. Then having a glass of wine, as it is necessary at such houses, especially when you intend to give them trouble ; Ben now shewed Mr. Henchman what he had already bought, all which he approved of, but his hat, which, he said, must be laced, to agree with the rest of his dress ; and sending for a porter, sent it back to the hatter's, to have an handsome silver lace put upon it, and to be sent back by one o'clock the next day, and he would see it paid for.

Being in a room by themselves, the steward acquainted Ben with his visit to the Lady, and the conversation he
had

had with her, by which, he said, he had found her designs truly honourable, and that, he supposed, he would be married before the next week was out; for as she liked you so well in your blue cloaths, I am sure she will not be less pleased with you in another dress. Ben said, he thought it would be necessary to acquaint his mother, as he had never done any thing of consequence without her consent. To this Mr. Henschman objected; that perhaps it would cause some delay, and it might be a more agreeable surprize to her, after it was over, and was what the Lady seemed to desire; that he would therefore advise him against it at present, and to let no one else know of it, and he would take care to manage the whole of his discharge from the house, and every thing else, with the utmost secrecy; that he would procure him a licence,
and

168 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

and give her away himself; and then he might surprize his friends as soon as he pleased with his good fortune. In this Ben acquiesced, and they returned home; Ben having ordered a supper for Mrs. Nurse and her daughter, from the Fountain, who were both very inquisitive, where he had been with the Steward; but he studiously avoided this question, and told them that the Steward had been to enquire about his ring, which he thought he might as well have let alone, as troubled himself about it; but, however, now he was satisfied; and, to avoid any more questions, he drank a glass of wine, gave nurse and her daughter each of them a glass, and then retired to his bed, where we shall leave him, either to sleep, or dream of the Lady; for his faithful bed-fellow never disclosed which he did.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIV.

*The history of Saturday, till Ben meets
the duke.*

THE next day, before the chariot arrived, Ben, having received his ticket from the steward, went to the Fountain, where he found the taylor waiting: When asking for a room up stairs, and ordering a bottle of Mountain, his linnen and other things, which had been left there, he took the taylor along with him, and soon divested himself of his blue livery, and began to dress in his new apparel, in which he made a most comely appearance, the cloaths being made to fit exactly to his shape. As soon as he was dressed, he paid his taylor, and dismissed him, telling him, if they wore well, he might be a customer again.

170 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

He now rung the bell, and ordered a barber to be fetched to dress his hair, bidding the drawer send up his master: he desired him to take his blue cloaths, and put them out of the way 'till evening. The landlord told him there was a closet in the room, where, if he pleased, he might lock them up, and take the key in his pocket; for as that room was seldom made use of, he did not expect any company there that evening.

The barber now made his appearance, and going to dress his hair, asked him if he would not chuse to have his face shaved, observing the down to be pretty thick and long, both on his chin and his upper lip. To this his customer made some objection, which he obviated, by telling him, with the usual rhetorick of the graduates

graduates of the razor, that it would give him a more manly look, and urged several other like weighty reasons, to the same purpose, till he gained his point; and Ben, for the first time, admitted the razor upon his face. The barber, having performed his operation, and dressed his hair, according to the most fashionable mode, in ringlets round his shoulders, little different from its natural curl, he gave him a shilling for his trouble; when the gentleman of the strap bowing, told him, there was always a fine paid for the first time of shaving, and that he was sure he looked ten pounds the better without his beard, as he stiled it, (though not very properly, for it was only a soft down) and that he hoped he'd give him something to drink his health with his shop-mates, (though he never intended any share for them) Ben threw him another shilling to drink, and giving him a glass of wine, dis-

172 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

missed him, and waited for the chariot, which he had ordered his boy to watch for, and bid the coachman come to him at the tavern, and to come with them.

As to our hero, he amused himself with looking in the glass, and viewing himself in his new habit, putting on his hat, and pulling it off, and making several scrapes and bows to his own image, but did not long enjoy the scene, for in less than a quarter of an hour a drawer interrupted him, and, with a look of surprize, said, Sir, here is one of the Blue-coat boys below, and a chariot at the door, who I believe want you, as there is no other gentleman in the house. The boy asked for Mr. Templeman, if that is your honour's name. Ben smiled, and bid him shew the boy up to him, and tell the servants to get themselves something to drink,

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 173

drink, and he would be with them presently. The drawer bowed, and withdrew, but soon returned with the boy, who, upon his opening the door, entered, and, according to the proverb, *stared like a stuck pig*, at seeing his master so richly dressed, and indeed was in some doubt whether the drawer had not shewed him into a wrong room; but Ben soon satisfied him in that point, by saying to him, Don't you know me, *King*; Yes, Sir, says the boy, I do now; but if I had met you in the street I should not have known you, you are so much altered now you are in them fine town cloaths: I am sure there never was any boy went out of the house before so well cloathed. I believe not, for they don't put on laced waistcoats as soon as they are out; but I must please my Lady, and not them; and the Steward says, these are very handsome, for he went with me to buy

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them.

174 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

them. Are you discharged then, Sir? says the boy. Not yet, replies Ben, but I believe it will not be long before I am; these cloaths are only for me to go to see the Lady in: I'm sure, replies the boy, if she liked you so well in your own cloaths, she'll like you a vast deal better now; for I think I never saw an handsomer young man in all my life. Don't stand chattering so, says Ben, but help yourself to a glass of wine, and then put my cloaths up in that closet, and give me the key, and remember to tell Nurse, that I have leave to stay out till ten o'clock, and shall hardly be at home before; but don't go and blab it all over the house that you saw me in laced cloaths; keep it secret, if you expect me to give you any thing when I go out. You may be sure, Sir, says the boy, that I won't tell any body of it; I never yet told any thing that I knew of you: Remember
how

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 175

how I was lashed, because I would not tell who you was, when Mr. HENCHMAN caught me a (d) skreiking, one night, while you was with a young woman in the girls cloister. It's true, says Ben, you behaved very well in that affair, and I think I gave you something to make you amends. Yes, says he, the next Sunday you bought a new girdle and buckle, and gave me your old ones, which I sold to one of the under (e) Grecians for a groat: I am sure my backside had more cuts than there were farthings in the money, to make me tell; but it was to no purpose, for I had a greater value for you, than to betray you. Don't talk so much, says Ben, but make haste and put up the things, for I want to be going. The boy soon finished laying up the blue cloaths, and locking the door, gave his master the key, who bid him go down, and tell the master of the house he de-

fired to speak with him, and let the coachman know that he was ready.

When the tavern-keeper appeared, Ben inquired into the reckoning. He told him he could not tell what he had had, but would ask, and let him know; To which he replied, he'd pay then at the bar as he went out, and asked the landlord, how he liked him in his new dress; who passed the compliment, that he was the finest young gentleman he ever saw, and that he was certain any lady who saw him must fall in love with him, if that was not already the case. The speech made our hero red as scarlet, which confirmed our landlord in his opinion; who now cried out, Well, Sir, I'm sure I have guessed right, and I wish you happy; but I hope she has a good fortune. Ben having a little recovered himself, says, indeed, landlord, you are beside the
mark,

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 177

mark, for I am going to pay a visit to a nobleman, at the other end of the town, and not a lady, as you suppose. Be that as it will, Sir, says he, but I think you want something yet, to compleat your dress, which I believe I can furnish you with, if you'll permit me. What is that Sir? says Ben; for my part I can't think what else I want. It is, Sir, says the landlord, a sword; all Gentlemen, now-a-days, as there is no occasion to draw them, wear swords, and I have a very good silver mounted one, which I always wear when we muster in the Artillery-ground, and is at your service for the present, if you please to wear it. Ben said, he believed he should behave but awkwardly with it, and had rather be without it. Upon my word, Sir, says he, it will be a great addition to your dress; let me fetch it, and only see how you like it. When not waiting for an answer, he

178 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

went and fetched his sword, which was what he used to march with on training days, he being a captain in the militia. He soon returned, and buckling the sword on upon Ben, told him it made a vast addition to his dress, and with some farther persuasion, prevailed on him to wear it. Being now compleatly drest, he came down stairs, paid his reckoning at the bar, and the coachman mounting his box, he stepped into the chariot, and drove off, but not quite so privately as himself imagined, for there happened to be in the house two of the upper boys, with a young man, who had been brought up there, and had not been above two years out of the house, who saw him at the bar, and getting into the chariot, who would undoubtedly have spread it all over the house, that he was discharged, and had left the house, from the dress they saw him in, had not his boy luckily been with

with him ; for he was no sooner gone than they called the boy back, who was going away, and asked him if Templeman was out of the house ; he said, no. How came he in town cloaths then ? says one of them, for I am sure it was he that went away in that chariot. Here the boy, who was pretty ready at invention at any time, either to save himself, or his master, replied, Why he has got leave to go to the play to-night, and is to go first to see a great gentleman at the other end of the town, who has sent him a suit of his son's cloaths, to put on upon the occasion ; and so I hope you won't say any thing about your seeing him in town cloaths. No, no, says one ; he need not be afraid of us, as that is the case ; for though he would not say any thing before-hand, yet we don't doubt but we shall know from himself of it, after he comes home.

180 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

As they swallowed this story, without any doubt, the boy went away, after they had given him a glass of wine, and charged him not to say any thing of having seen them there, nor who they were with ; which also brought on them a farther obligation to secrecy, with regard to Templeman, as the boy had it as much in his power to betray them, as they to betray Templeman ; which would not have been much to their credit, as the person they were with was a profligate young fellow, a surgeon's apprentice, and one whom they had been particularly charged not to keep company with.

Let us now look after Templeman, who, as soon as William had mounted in his proper situation, for he did not now pretend to get in with Ben, whom he began to look upon as his master, the chariot moved off, and soon conveyed

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 181

veyed him to his expecting fair one, who had waited some minutes in the parlour for his arrival. When the chariot stopt at the door, the Lady went directly to the window, and though the image of her hero had taken such root in her heart, that one would have thought it was impossible to be erased, yet, when she saw Ben get out, had she not been certain of the chariot's being her own, she would scarcely have believed her eyes, that he was the same person, he was so much altered by his drefs.

On his entering the room, the Lady paid her devoirs in a very polite manner, which Mr. Templeman returned, with the genteelest bow he could make, and advanced forward to salute her, to which she made no objection; and they remained for near a minute locked in each others arms; after which, being
both

182 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

both of them seated, the Lady said, I protest, Mr. Templeman, you look charmingly, now you are out of your petticoats. I think I have never seen a finer young gentlemen in my life: I'm certain his grace can have no dislike to you; but I believe, dinner is now almost ready, I hope you have not yet dined.

She then conducted him into the dining-room; and after dinner (of which I shall not now give my readers a bill of fare, lest I might make some of them hungry) our hero told her, he had not words to express his gratitude to her, for the honours she had conferred upon him, and the much greater he perceived she intended him, saying, he was but a poor Blue-coat boy, the son of a country clergyman, who, as is too often the case, left behind him a widow, and three children unprovided

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 183

provided for : that it was not in his power to make her any other amends, than by always retaining the most grateful sense of her favours ; and being ready to obey all her commands, to the utmost of his power. You have merit, Mr. Templeman, says the Lady, which is the reason of my selecting you from the rest of the world ; if you please to accept the offer of sharing my fortune with me, if you approve it, let Tuesday next be the day to complete our happiness. Madam replied Ben, I have already promised to obey all your commands, though, if you please, I would beg leave to defer it till Wednesday. But why Mr. Templeman, would you chuse to defer our happiness, though but for a single day ? Because Madam, replies he, Wednesday is my birth-day, and I have observed, that something particular has always happened to me on that day ;

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it was on that day I lost my father ; it was on that day twelve-months I was admitted into Christ's hospital ; and should therefore, be glad to mark that day with the greatest happiness of my life. Mr. Templeman, replies the Lady, I can deny you nothing, and, as it is your desire, will put it off till Wednesday : In the mean time, you may provide yourself with another suit or two, to appear in ; I suppose, the person of whom you bought those you have on, can furnish you, for, I think, they fit very well upon you, and become you greatly. I shall wait on Sir George Mertins myself to-morrow, as he is your guardian for the house, and make no doubt of obtaining his consent. Let William go directly for the tailor, and give him his orders to be ready against Wednesday.

William

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 185

William was accordingly dispatched; and the Lady and Ben now talked of future scenes of happiness, and hours of bliss, to be hereafter enjoyed; he kissed her hands, her lips, commended her generosity, vowed eternal constancy and unceasing gratitude. She applauded all he said, and shewed no reluctance to his ardent embraces, and all their talk was love.

CHAP.

C H A P. XV.

The Duke arrives at the Lady's, their discourse ; his offers to Ben.

THEY had not been long in this pleasing discourse, before they were interrupted by a peal of thunder at the door, which rattled through the house. This proclaimed to them the arrival of the Duke of —, who was immediately shewed into the dining room, where the first ceremonies being past, his Grace made an apology, saying, I did not know you had company, Madam ; I hope I interrupt no business. Not in the least, replies the Lady, this young man has been favouring me with a song or two, for I can assure your Grace he sings very prettily, and I would recommend him to your Grace's farther acquaintance.

Madam,

Madam, replies the Peer, as the young gentleman is an acquaintance of yours, it is a sufficient recommendation ; if I can be of any service to him, you may command me. He then proceeded to ask Templeman several questions, which he answered very pertinently, and with as much politeness as he was capable of ; and so well pleased him by his answers, that he asked him in what situation of life he was placed. To which Ben replied, that he was as yet but a school-boy, and intended for the sea ; but if any thing else offered that might be better, he should not be averse to it. His Grace, after musing a little, says, What think you Sir, of the army ; suppose you could have a pair of colours given you ? To this Ben answered, that as he had no fortune to support a commission in the army, and he had heard that the pay was too small, to live as a gentleman,

188 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

gentleman, (as they were expected to do,) it was what he could not presume to think of; and thanking the Duke for his kind offer, for so he took it, told him, he should be much more obliged to him for his interest in the sea-service, if he should be able to encounter that boisterous element, and live till he had served his proper time to become an officer. This his Grace readily promised; and then turning his discourse to some frivolous questions, was on the point of desiring him to give him a song, when William entered, and told Templeman a gentleman wanted to speak to him; upon which he withdrew, and found his taylor waiting in the parlour for his orders.

His Grace being now alone with the Lady, asked her who that young gentleman was; adding, that he seemed

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 189

ed to have much sincerity, and good nature in his countenance; and that he liked him the better, for his refusal of his intended offer, (for indeed his Grace had made none, though it was his design, and in his power, he being commander in chief at that time) especially, as he had given so good a reason for it; when many inconsiderate young fellows would have jumped at the proposal; but he seemed to have too true a notion of the army, to accept of what he had not a sufficiency to support with dignity. Indeed, replies the Lady, he is, Sir, a very fine young gentleman, and has a most just sense of honour and gratitude, though he is but a Blue-coat boy. A Blue-coat boy! says his Grace, you surprise me greatly. Pray, Madam, how came you acquainted with him? and how came he by those cloaths he has on? they, I am sure, don't belong to
the

190 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

the hospital. I shall, replies the Lady, answer both your Graces, questions in their turn. As to my acquaintance with him it was by accident. I went some time ago to hear an anthem at the hospital, which he happened to sing, and by that and his behaviour, he so took my fancy, that I invited him to my house, to sing it to me again, since which he has visited me, but as I did not like his coming in his blue cloaths, especially on a day when I knew your Grace would be here, I gave him a trifle to hire a suit for the occasion; and what I may do more for him, I know not, as I find he is endued with a thorough sense of gratitude for all obligations that can be bestowed upon him.

Madam, replies his Grace, I scarce understand your meaning; but am afraid there is more couched under your words,

words, than I can easily guess; your fortune is to be sure large, but I hope you do not intend to throw it away; you are yet but young, and may meet with many advantageous offers. As to that Sir, replies the Lady, my fortune is of itself sufficient, to make any couple happy, and to provide for a few children in a decent manner, and as I have lived a very unhappy life, without repining, to obtain it, so I hope to have some comfort in the enjoyment, with a person whom I think will always have gratitude to own the obligations conferred upon him, and sense and understanding enough to take care of, and to improve it; and not with a coxcomb, who after the first month, will leave me to live upon my jointure, and set the rest a flying, in mistresses or horses, till he is at last forced to return home, and, after he has spent all the rest,
participate

192 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

participate of my pittance for a maintenance, and at the same time, though he lives upon me, will in all probability abuse me, which is the case of most of the fine young gentlemen of this age; and as to the old, I have been a nurse long enough. I do not intend, Madam, replied the Duke. to find fault with you, or to recommend any more, it is enough that I made you miserable once; I only offer my advice, which you may chuse, whether you will take it a second time or not, as it proved so bad the first; you are undoubtedly mistress of your own person, fortune and actions, and have none to controul you, but let me tell you, my visits hereafter will be proportioned to your choice, if I like the behaviour and conversation of the person you may pitch upon, which I may, if he is not a rake, a fop nor a fool; I shall not
refuse

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 193

refuse to visit him, though he may have neither birth nor fortune, except what he has from you, to recommend him ; but as to this young man, who is at present with you, in my opinion he is both too young and too low in life for you, to have any thought of him, though he seems a very sensible youth and wants only a few more years to make a bright man. That is a fault, replies the Lady, time alone must mend, and which will decrease daily ; I must own, I have so good an opinion of his good sense and gratitude, that he is the only person whom I have yet seen, that I could think to live for the future happy with ; as he is good tempered, his youth gives me the greater ascendancy, and his high sense of gratitude, will prevent his repining, or ever making use of the authority of an husband, in contradiction to my will. You may per-

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haps

haps find yourself mistaken, Madam, replies the Duke, but as it is your own choice, I shall not offer to oppose it, for, as you had but an uneasy life with your former husband, who was of my recommending, I would not be instrumental in making you miserable again: all that I shall at present offer to advise, is, that you take care to secure your fortune in your own hands, for fear of accidents; for how well soever you may think of your intended spouse, you may perhaps find yourself mistaken, when he has once the possession of your person and fortune in his own power. To this, the Lady replied, that she could not foresee any occasion for it, for she was certain Mr. Templeman's high sense of gratitude, would make him a faithful steward, and his education, and unacquaintance with the world, would preserve his affections

to her, so that she was under no apprehensions, of his either squandering away her fortune, or neglecting her person; that the securing her fortune in her own hand, would seem mean and suspicious, as if she was afraid to trust that to the man to whom she consigned her person; all that she could think of doing, was, to make a provision for her children, if she should have any, as in all probability she might; but in case she had none, the law had already made a sufficient provision, by giving it to the survivor, either the one or the other: though I shall, continues she, take care to reserve to myself, the power of bequeathing a few thousands, to whom I please; and for the rest I can freely part with it, to so well a deserving gentleman as Mr. Templeman, with whom I hope to live many happy years. I shall give my attorney in-

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structions,

196 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

structions, to get the proper deeds ready on Monday, that they may be executed the day following, as Wednesday is the day appointed for our nuptials; and Mr. Templeman is now with the taylor about his cloaths and will be here again presently, when your Grace may have an opportunity of satisfying yourself further, as to his person and understanding, and I hope, you will not think that I have chose an unworthy person to give my fortune to. To this, his Grace replied, that as it was her choice, and what she seemed to be so much set upon, he had nothing to object, and added that if he could be of any service to her in the affair, or to her future spouse, provided he proved worthy of his favour, she might command him. To this the Lady was going to reply, but Templeman himself entering at that instant broke off the discourse.

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The Lady now rung for tea; after which she reassumed her discourse, and addressing herself to his Grace, told him she hoped he approved of Mr. Templeman, enough to grant her a favour, upon his account; to which his Grace replied, that to be sure Mr. Templeman's person and behaviour, would prejudice any one in his favour; that, he did not doubt, but upon a farther acquaintance, he would become an object of his esteem; though it might not be in his power to reward him, according to his merit. To this Ben bowed, and the Lady replied to his Grace, that there was a small favour, which she hoped his Grace would not deny at present, as it was in his power, very easily, to grant it. Upon his enquiring, what it was that he could be of service to her or Mr. Templeman in, and that if it was in his power, he should be

198 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

very ready to grant it, if she would let him know; the Lady, replied, that if he would condescend to do it, it was, to go to the hospital with her, to wait on the Treasurer, Sir George Mertins, to ask his consent in the affair she had been mentioning to him, and to obtain Templeman's discharge; and as he was not of age, she continued, that it would be altogether necessary, to have the consent of the Governors of the hospital, who were his Guardians, in order to obtain a licence; that it would not be proper for her, to go herself, on such business, and she did not know any one that she cared to entrust in an affair of such consequence; that some objection might probably be made to a private gentleman, if she was to send such an one, though, she made no doubt, it would be granted immediately to his Grace; for which reason,

reason, she hoped, he would accompany her to the hospital the next day, in the evening, when they should see Sir George; and, if his Grace pleased, they might stay and see the children sup, which she assured his Grace was a very fine sight, and well worth seeing, observing farther that there were some fine pictures in the hall, of some eminent masters, which she was sure would please his Grace very much, if he had not already seen them.

This was the greatest inducement the Lady could have offered, to persuade him to go with her to the hospital: she knew he was very fond of good paintings, and professed himself a connoisseur in them; and these were some that he had never seen, nor indeed heard of. His Grace being thus mounted on his hobby horse, present-

ly agreed to go with her the next evening; when he would, he said, take an opportunity of seeing the Treasurer and talking with him; and would break the matter to him; and made no doubt of his compliance. After having stayed about an hour, talking with Ben, about the affairs of the house, and other indifferent matters, he took his leave, with a promise to wait on his daughter the next day towards evening, to go with her to the hospital.

His Grace being departed, and Ben and the Lady left alone, they now indulged themselves in tales of love, and laying schemes for future pleasures, till supper, which being finished, our hero having taken a glass or two, took his leave with a close embrace of his Lady, and the chariot being ready, drove to the Fountain;

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 201

tain ; where having undressed and re-inflated himself again, *propria persona*, in blue baize, returned home ; and making the porter a present at the gate went to his ward, where as nothing extraordinary happened we shall now bid him a good night and leave him, either to sleep, or dream of his future fortune ; as we do not chuse to inform our readers which, we leave them to their own conjectures of the matter.

C H A P. XVI.

The Transactions of the next Morning, &c.

THE next morning Templeman went as usual to breakfast with the boys, but did not find the aerial food of love, sufficient to satisfy his appetite: he intended to have breakfasted with his nurse, after the boys had done, yet his appetite was so keen, that he munched his (*f*) crug as well as ever he had done in his life, till his friend Mr. Henchman disturbed him, by bidding him come to his house. As he now no longer feared this Basla, he immediately obeyed his order, without reluctance; and, while they were at breakfast together, acquainted him with what had passed the day before, and told him also of the Duke's and Lady's design of visiting the Treasurer, and the hall,

hall, that evening. This, Mr. Henchman said, would be an honour to the house ; but that, if he was not enjoined to secrecy, he would apprize the Treasurer of it, and prepare him for their reception, both on his account and the Lady's, as it would be proper the Treasurer should be acquainted both with their coming, and the business on which they came. To this Ben assented, and having received an invitation from Mr. Henchman to dine with him, he departed to the hall, to be ready to attend the church with the rest of the boys.

Mr. Henchman waited on the Treasurer, to give him an account whom he expected in the evening at the hall, and the business they came upon ; at which, Sir George was greatly surprized, as well he might, but said little ; but that the youth, he

thought, was full young to launch out into the world; yet, the offer was too great to be withstood, and that he should not be his hindrance, and would grant him his discharge. That Sir, replies the Steward, is not what his Grace designs to request; but, as the young man is not of age, the favour which his Grace means to request of you, is, that you would give your consent to the match, that they may obtain a regular licence; to this Sir George replied, that he did not see how either his assent, or dissent, could be of any consequence, as the boy, he supposed, had friends of his own, and it might be more proper for them to give their consent, than for him. It is true, Sir, answered Mr. Henschman, the lad has a mother living, but the Lady would rather chuse to surprize her with the news of her son's good fortune, than to ask her consent to what she is well assured

fured she could not refuse ; therefore, Sir, as the Governors of this house are undoubtedly the Guardians of all the boys who are in the house, so long as they continue therein ; and, as you, Sir, as Treasurer, in many cases represent the whole body, it is for that reason that his Grace will address you for consent, which being obtained, a licence will be immediately granted thereon, and the parties will be married in a day or two. To this Sir George said, that it was true, he might be considered in the light Mr. HENCHMAN had set him, in some part ; but that, though the Governors might justly be deemed Guardians to their boys, yet he was but one of the number, and was afraid, should he act solely in this case, without consulting his brethren in a committee, he should stretch his prerogative of Treasurer a little too far. That he should see some others of the Governors
in

206 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

in the evening, and would consult them on the affair, as he should be ready not only to oblige his Grace, but to be of all the service he could to any of his lads; and did not doubt but that they would be ready to concur in his opinion.

Mr. Henchman now left the Treasurer to attend his boys; and as it may be either inconvenient, or disagreeable to our readers to go with him to church, we shall not desire it, lest they should fall asleep, when our aim is to keep them awake. Let us therefore return to our hero, who, according to his orders, attended Mr. Henchman at his dinner-time, who, after dinner, told him of his interview with the Treasurer, adding, that he did not doubt of success, as he had started no material objection, and promised to consult the Governors, who shou'd be present at supper. Ben
thanked

The Fortunate BLUE-COAT BOY. 207

thanked him for his kindness, and asked him if he should shew his Grace, when he came, to the Treasurer, or into the hall. To this the other replied, that it would not be proper for him to do either ; that he would plant a beadle at the Friars gate to receive him ; but that he might, if he pleased, throw himself in the way, as by accident, which might save the trouble of sending after him. He promised to observe his directions, and, after drinking a glass of wine, made his leg and left him.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVII.

The Duke comes to the hospital. His opinion of the pictures, &c.

AS soon as the afternoon service was ended, Ben repaired to the gate, where, after having waited about half an hour, his Grace and the Lady arrived; and Ben, that he might not seem wanting either in duty or complaisance, before the footman could alight, had opened the coach door, and was handing the Lady out; who said to him, I perceive, Mr. Templeman, you expected us. He replied, Madam, I hope Ladies never break their promise. By this time his Grace had alighted; the beadle knowing him by his star, which he had then on, went up to him, and asked him where he would please to go; he replied, directly to the hall; for his
Grace

Grace had as strong a desire to see the pictures, that he had been told of, as a chiding woman has after any thing she may have taken a fancy to. The beadle then called one of the boys, who stood by, and bid him run to the porter, and tell him to make the people give way; the boy run off immediately, and by the time his Grace was entered the cloisters, a lane was made through the populace for him, who followed the beadle, and was followed by the Lady, whom Ben had the pleasure of handing through the crowd, and up into the hall without interruption. They no sooner arrived at the bottom of the hall, than his Grace stopt, and casting his eyes to the upper end, and observing the King on his throne, said to his daughter, that he could almost fancy himself entering the drawing-room on some grand festival; and looking attentively on the figure of the King,

was

210 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

was observed to take out his handkerchief, and wipe his eyes, paying the tribute of some involuntary tears to the remembrance of an unfortunate deluded monarch and relation.

They now went into the hall, and Ben began to explain to his Grace the picture at the bottom, which his Grace observed was an exceeding fine one, and done in the taste of Albert Duver, but could not be positive whether it was his or not. He commented upon the attitudes of the several figures ; the steady sedate countenance of the young King ; the joy in the faces of the Bishop, Lord-Mayor, and the Court of Aldermen, on receiving the Charter ; concluding, that the whole piece was just, and well finished, and an excellent piece of antient painting. They then proceeded up the hall, and his Grace took a particular notice of the portrait of
King

King Charles II. in the robes of the Garter, which he highly commended, saying, it was one of the finest portraits of that monarch he had ever seen. Being come to the top of the hall, Ben began to explain the figures in the large picture. His Grace bid him not give himself any trouble, as most of the great personages he knew by their faces, which he could very well remember to have seen at Court in his younger days ; but if there were any whom he might not know, if he would inform him of them, he shou'd be glad to be helped out.

By this time Mr. Henchman came to the hall, and paying his respects to the Duke, asked him if he would not chuse to walk into the Governors apartment till supper-time ; to which he answered, that he rather chose to take a little more notice of the piece before him,

him, which he declared was a very fine piece, the figures drawn in very proper and graceful attitudes, and great likeness, and the colours very good and lively. His Grace having surveyed this picture as long as he thought proper, and having seen the Mathematical School, and Girls Ward, and taken a turn in the Writing School, he was, together with the Lady, by Mr. HENCHMAN'S orders, (who had made an apology for not attending on them himself, as the affairs of his office required his presence in the kitchen) conducted to the Governors apartment by Templeman; who then made his obeisance, and left them, saying, it was not lawful for any of the boys to go into the Governors room.

C H A P. XVIII.

*The Treasurer and Governors meet his Grace ;
what passed in the withdrawing-room,
and at Sir George's after supper, and the
two next days.*

HIS Grace had not waited long before the Treasurer, who had notice of his arrival, and several of the governors with him, entered in form ; when Sir George, saluting the Duke, told him, He returned him thanks for the honour he did the house, by his presence ; to this, his Grace gave a very genteel bow, and told the Alderman, that, as well as curiosity, he had some real business, that brought him there, which he shou'd be glad to impart to his worship, but this the Knight waved for the present, and playing with his chain, like a school-boy at a repetition, replied,

214 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

replied, That he had received some *item* of his business, but, if he pleased, he would defer it till after supper, when he should be glad of his and the Lady's company at his house, and then they would talk about it; that, in the mean time, he would open the matter to the rest of the Governors, who were there, and would then do all in his power to oblige his Grace. They then began to talk of indifferent matters till some more of the Governors arrived, when they went into the hall with the usual ceremonies, and the Duke was placed in an armed chair, on the right hand of the Treasurer, which had been set on purpose for him, and the Lady on the left.

The first service being over, the Alderman asked his Grace to accompany him again into the Governors withdrawing-room, which he declined,
(that

(that he might give Sir George the better opportunity of consulting his brethren) saying, that he chose to take a turn or two in the hall, and take a view of the children at their suppers. Here Ben again accompanied them, going with them from table to table, at every one of which his Grace had some questions to ask; nor did he leave any one without some token of his generosity.

While the Duke was thus amusing himself with the boys, the Treasurer, in the withdrawing-room, was consulting with his brethren what answer he should give to his Grace, after supper; and having told them what he had heard from Mr. Henchman, they were divided in their opinions; one saying, that, in his opinion, he thought it was none of their business no farther than that if the boy got himself married, he
must

must be discharged ; but, as the case now stood, he was not for having it done in a public manner, with disgrace, but in the regular method, as if he had gone out of the house. To this Sir George replied, that was not the business at present, as he would undoubtedly demand his discharge as soon as his marriage was celebrated ; but what was now desired, was, his and the Governors consent, to marry while he was under their care ; that, for his part, he saw nothing that might be objected to this, for they were undoubtedly the Guardians of all the orphans committed to their charge ; and as no-body ever attempted to dispute their right of maintaining or binding them apprentices, so he could not see any room any one had to question their right in the present case. To which one of the Governors, who was a very eminent counsel, (and whom Sir George had sent for) made answer, that,

that, in his opinion, Sir George had hit upon the true state of the case; that they were, in all law and equity, the Guardians of their children; and that he would pawn all his credit at the bar in the defence of this opinion, and, if he lost the cause, would never attempt to plead any more: That, if the gentlemen pleased, he would give it as his opinion in writing, and would undertake to defend it in any court in the kingdom, whether ecclesiastical or civil. This declaration, from a man eminent in his profession, silenced the rest, and they agreed that the Treasurer might, in the name of the Governors, give his consent to the marriage, according to the desire of the Lady, and concluded with saying, that they thought this a great turn of fortune for the young man, and that they hoped he'd do his endeavour to shew himself deserving of

so great a favour, by his future conduct to his Benefactress.

Supper being ended, the Duke returned again to his seat, by the Treasurer, who soon came into the hall, and gave orders for an Anthem, which, at Ben's desire to the singing Master, was the same that had before so much entertained the Lady, and in which our hero exerted his utmost faculties, to give the greater entertainment to his generous Lady, as well as in hopes to make a more favourable impression of himself on his Grace. The Anthem being ended, his Grace staid to see the procession of the boys round the hall, in which he and the Lady received a most profound respect from Ben. They then accompanied Sir George to his house, where the Lady being withdrawn along with Sir George's Lady, his Grace began to open the business to Sir George, and
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to urge his consent for our hero's marriage, which was readily complied with, Sir George telling him what had been the opinion of the counsellor, to whom he had related the affair.

Matters being thus settled, his Grace thanked the Treasurer in the Lady's name, and told him, that he hoped he would not be against the youth's waiting on his Lady, Monday and Tuesday, to prepare the necessary articles; for that Wednesday was the day fixed for their marriage; after which the young man would trouble them no more. To this the Treasurer replied, that he had no objection, he might go and come when he pleased, and that he would immediately send for him, to let him know it; and calling his footman, he ordered him to go to the King's Ward, and bid Templeman come to him; who, as he was waiting for their coming

out, was not long before he appeared. When the footman was withdrawn, Sir George turning to him, said, Young man, I give you joy of your good fortune, and hope you'll do your endeavour to make yourself deserving of it. I hear you are to be married on Wednesday morning, and his Grace here, desires you may have leave to attend the Lady, to-morrow and Tuesday. I, for my part, shall not pretend to lay any restraint on you, but you may, during that time, come and go as you please, only would desire you not to stay out all night, nor make it too late before you come home, on your own account, and that you would keep it as secret as you can, till you have your discharge. You may give out, that you are going to a master, to whom you are to be bound apprentice, which, as you are shortly to go out of course, will look probable enough, and no one will

will suspect any thing ; for as to this marriage, I do not find, by Mr. Henchman, that any one has much suspicion of it ; and, at my desire, the gentlemen who were in the hall to-night, to whom I communicated it, for their concurrence with me, in granting our consent, I believe will not say any thing of the matter, at least not till it is all over. But take care that you let your Master and the Steward know that you have leave from me to go out to-morrow and Tuesday. Ben bowed, and was going to withdraw, but Sir George, who was all good nature, prevented him, by bidding him sit down, telling him, that he might as well stay, and wait on his Lady and his Grace to their coach. Ben gladly obeyed his command, and the Duke and Sir George fell into chat about the order and œconomy of the house, (which his Grace greatly commended) till the

Lady returned, when she and the Duke, both thanking the Treasurer for his civility, took their leave, and Ben had the pleasure of handing the Lady thro' the cloisters to the coach, when, taking his leave of her, he promised to be with her the next morning.

No sooner had the coach moved off, but Ben went directly to his friend the Steward, to acquaint him with what had passed at the Treasurer's. Mr. Henchman then gave him a ticket, and, after some friendly advice, dismissed him, when he went to his Ward, and the next morning, according to his promise, attended on the Lady, with whom he staid all that day, and the next, only coming home at night to bed.

On Tuesday morning the attorney brought the writings to be executed,
by

by which the Lady had, out of her vast fortune, reserved to herself a jointure of fifty thousand pounds, if she survived her future husband, of which twenty was to be at her own disposal, by will, or in any other manner she thought proper; the rest being settled on her children, if she should have any, or in case she died childless, then on her husband. This deed was directly executed between Ben and the Lady, in the presence of the attorney, and another gentleman, who came along with him for that purpose.

In the afternoon the taylor arrived with the wedding-clothes, for Ben to try, and in this had shewed both his skill as a taylor, and his fancy in the choice; for Ben having told him what occasion they were for, left it to him to chuse both the colour and the stuff: he had very judiciously brought him

two

two suits, the one a light cream-coloured cloath coat and breeches, trimmed with silver, and a silver tiffue waistcoat; the other, a silver-grey Baragan, with gold frogs and tassels. Ben tried the clothes, which exactly fitted him, without the least alteration; and having expressed his approbation, he dismissed him, ordering him to call the week following and to bring his bill, and he should be paid. The taylor bowed, and told him he had the bill in his pocket, and that he hoped his honour (for so he thought proper to stile him) would be so good as to pay him now, as he was in great want, to make up a sum of money which he was to pay the next day; that he had depended on his honour, and hoped he should not be disappointed. To this Ben told him, that he could by no means then pay the bill, and did not doubt, but that in a day or two, if he called, he should thoroughly

thoroughly satisfy him ; that it was true, he made no doubt, but that if he was to speak to the Lady he might do it then, but, as he was so soon to be in possession both of her person and fortune, he did not now chuse to trouble her ; that the beginning of the next week he might depend on being paid, and, if it suited before, he would send for him ; that he hoped his staying two or three days for his money would be no great detriment to him.

The taylor was now going away, when William entering, told Mr. Templeman that his Lady desired to see him before the man went away. Upon which, Ben bid him stay a little, and he would wait on the Lady and return to him again. When he came to the Lady, who was in the next room, and had indeed heard all that passed between him and the taylor, she accost-
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ed him : I am sorry, Sir, your modesty is so great, that you do not chuse to apply to me in an affair of so small importance, as the payment of a trifling taylor's bill, which I must necessarily know was wanting, and am myself to blame that I did not prepare you better for his reception, especially as you are to-morrow to possess both my person and fortune (if I may use the expression.) You ought not to have been so scrupulous in reminding me of what I need to have taken care of. Madam, replied Ben, I was unwilling to trouble you at present, and I thought the man might very well stay for his bill a few days, without any inconveniency, in which time, I make no doubt, but you'll put it in my power to pay him. Indeed, Sir, said the Lady, it shall be in your power before he goes out of the house; and pulling a purse

out:

out of her pocket, continued, That I may not make any more such blunders, here is what I presume will defray all expences of to-day and to-morrow. Upon which she gave Ben the purse, which contained in money and bank-bills upwards of five hundred pounds, bidding him pay the man, and dismiss him, for that she wanted his company at tea. Ben bowed, and returned to the taylor, telling him, that he would not now give him the trouble to come again, if he could give him change, and tendered him an hundred pound bill, which was the largest he had. The taylor looking at the bill, told him he had not enough about him; but, if he pleased, he would go home and fetch him the change, and would wait on him again. Ben bid him do so, and come to him again about eight o'clock

228 *The Fortunate* BLUE-COAT BOY.

o'clock in the evening, when he should be at leisure.

The manner in which the Taylor changes the bill — Mr. Templeman's wedding, and his generous and polite behaviour after marriage, shall be related in a Second Volume.

The End of the FIRST VOLUME.



NOTES to the FIRST VOLUME.

Title * *Orphanotrophian*] One brought up in an hospital or orphan-house, from the Greek *Orphanos*, and *Trophèe*, nourishment, or sustenance.

Address, † *Crug*] This word, the learned Grecians of the house would willingly derive from the Greek ; but I rather think it no more than a corruption of the English word *Crust*, as it signifies neither more nor less than a piece of bread, served in the morning for their breakfast, which may justly be called a crust, it being only a fourth part of a penny loaf ; though, in a more enlarged sense, it is also used in the house for bread in general : and he who eats a large quantity thereof, and begs from other boys what they can spare of their allowance, is called a *Cruggy fellow*, or a lover of crug ; a term of disdain with them, (and amounts to the same as calling a man a glutton). Those who are educated in the house are frequently called by each other, after they are out, when they chance to meet, *Brother Crugs*.

Page 1, (a) *Biographer*] A writer of lives, derived from two Greek words, *Biós* life, and *Graphô* to write.

(b) *Bayle*] An eminent biographer, who has wrote the lives of eminent persons in seven volumes in folio.

Page 4, (c) *Orphanotrophian*.] See note 1.

Page 7, (d) *A dab*] An expert skilful boy at any thing, alias a clever fellow.

Page 8, (e) *King's Ward*] The wards are the rooms where the children are lodged, under the care of their nurses, of which there is one to every ward, who have under their care from seventy to forty boys each. That called the *King's Ward* contains the forty boys belonging to the Mathe-

N O T E S.

matical School, founded by King Charles the Second. These boys are chosen from out of the rest, and placed in this ward by themselves, either on their own or some friend's petition, or sometimes for their unruly behaviour and unlucky tricks, being thought fit for nothing but to go to sea. By the original foundation, they are to be apprenticed to captains of merchant ships, of a certain burthen, and are, at the beginning of the sixth year, to be at his Majesty's call, to any of his ships of war. This was designed as a seminary to bring up midshipmen, and other petty officers for the Navy; but, in the late reigns, there hath been no call for them, though they still enjoy the indulgence of being free from impress warrants, (at least) so long as they preserve their silver badge, which they ought always to do, and indeed to wear it, as they do in the house, on the outside of their coats, but they generally convert it to the lid of a snuff-box, or some such thing, or keep it by them to produce occasionally.

Page 8, (*f*) *Church and gate bills*] The first is a list of the names of such boys as play or make a noise at church, which is taken by the seniors of the Grammar School, and is always sure to meet with punishment. This gives these boys an ascendancy over the others, as it puts it in their power to have whom they please punished, and as often as they think fit, so it makes them wholly despotic over the rest, as the monitor's word is always taken; and it would be almost impossible for a boy to say he was not inattentive during the whole service, and he cannot tell at what time the monitor might see him. The gate-bills are kept by boys called *Watchers*, who are placed as centinels at every avenue of the hospital, to see who
goes

N O T E S.

goes out without a ticket, which those who have leave are obliged to shew him. These bills are given to the Steward every morning, and the boys who run out are frequently punished, either by whipping, which follows immediately, or sometimes by being confined in a dungeon when the rest of the boys have leave to go out; but this latter, I believe, is now left off.

Page 8, (g) *Clogged and collared*] This was a punishment formerly used in the hospital for such as went out without leave, or ran away. The first was a broad ring or strap of iron locked round the leg, with a small chain and log of wood affixed to it, as the criminals in Bridewell. The second was a strap of iron locked round the neck, with an iron ascending from it with a crane neck, at the end of which hung a bell, which, as they walked along, always rung, unless, as was generally the case, they stopped it. These, the boys wore, when they were once put on, generally for a week, night and day, and sometimes longer; and a great offender might sometimes have both upon him at once, but that was not often the case. But this punishment is now very judiciously left off.

Ditto, (h) *Steward*] This officer, as well as superintending the affairs and provisions of the house, has the whole care of the boys in their play-time, as the several Masters have during their school-hours; therefore our hero's faults were in general such as came under his cognizance, and not under his School-master, being committed out of school hours; and as it is the Steward that gives the boys leave to go out beyond their bounds, so he corrects them that transgress.

N O T E S.

Page 8, (i) *Monitors*] These are boys who are at the upper end of the school or ward, who have the care of the rest, under the Steward, their Master, or Nurse, as occasion happens; the principal of whom are the seniors of the Grammar-School; the next of the King's-Ward; then the several monitors of the Writing-School; and, lastly, the Ward-monitors, whose authority extends only to their own wards, nor the others any farther than their own school, except the seniors of the Grammar-School, who are, as it were, lords paramount over all the rest.

Ditto, (k) *Order*] The Mathematical-School, or King's-Ward, is divided into eight classes, or orders, as they are stiled in the house, five in each order.

Page 9, (l) (m) *Carried his jack, with a full spadge*] When they are entered into the King's Ward, whilst they are in the last order, they are generally *jack boys*, as they are called, that is, they fetch the beer from the buttery in leathern jacks, and serve it out to the rest of the boys at their meals. Carrying it with a *spadge*, is to carry it with a full swing of the left arm, which is called Spadging, a note of defiance to authority.

Page 9, (n) *Walked the table*] As the last order are destined to be jack boys, and to other inferior offices, so the first are monitors of the ward, whose province it is to walk up and down the table in the hall, at meals, during the time service is performing, and to take care that the others do not play nor talk, but attend to their duty and singing, both before they sit down to eat, and when they rise up from table: This they generally do with great state.

N O T E S.

Page 9, (o) *Lusty*] Some would stile this stubbornness, in which light it was always looked upon by Mr. HENCHMAN, and signifies, for a boy not to winch, or even say so much as, Pray, Sir, when they are lashed; for which, the King's Ward were always famous; and he who endured the most lashes without speaking, was reckoned the finest fellow. I have myself seen some of them tire the old gentleman's arm, without once complaining, or crying Oh! though the blood flowed in plenty from their posteriors.

Ditto, (p) *One side of his hair*] It was a silly, though frequent practice with Mr. HENCHMAN, let a boy have never so good an head of hair, if he found them in a fault, especially if they were, as they termed it, lusty at a lashing, when he had done with their backside, to take out his scissars, which he always carried in his pocket, and cut off one side of his hair close to the boy's ear, leaving him thus disfigured, as a mark'd sheep, till he found an opportunity to get it cut even and regular, and even then it was a great disguise, as well as disgrace, especially if the boy happened to have a good head of hair; and generally the better the hair was, the worse for the boy, as he often left the bad untouched.

Ditto, (q) *The stone*] A place at the bottom of the hall so called, where the boys who were clogged or collared, or were to be otherways punished, were obliged to stand till they had their punishment; and, instead of sitting at the table to their meals, had their victuals brought to them thither, which they either eat standing or kneeling, having a bread-basket turned bottom upwards for a table.

N O T E S.

Page 14, (r) *An examination*] At the hospital are two days of public examination annually, the one, the Friday before Passion Week, and the other in the month of October, when the boys come all under their several examinations. The Grammar-School by some eminent divine and classic, in classical learning in the hall. The Mathematical School, in their own school, by some eminent mathematician. The Writing and Drawing-School, spread their pieces on the tables in the hall, for the inspection of such of the Governors and Gentlemen who may be present, as every person who is tolerably well dressed may have admission into the hall, either to hear (if he understands it) or see this examination; and, after all is over, it is concluded with an anthem.

Page 15, (s) *Sir Cloudsley*] It is reported that the great Sir Cloudsley Shovel, who was cast away on the rocks of Scilly, had been educated in this hospital; though I can only suppose it to be fable, as I never saw his name in any of the lists of the King's boys, published every New-Year's-Day, when they appear at Court. If therefore it was so, which I will not deny, it must have been in the Writing-School.

Page 15, *Nurse*] See note (e) page 8.

Page 21, (u) *Yeoman*] The antient yeomen of Kent were the freeholders, who did not hold their lands in villainage of their lords. Now those who farm their own estates, whether freehold, copy-hold, or leasehold on life, or renewable by fine, are deemed Yeomen.

Page 33, (w) *Dey, de, dis, do, dem*] The people in the lower parts, and in the Weald of Kent, generally pronounce *d* for *th*, after the old Saxons; as *fader*, *moder*; *dey* for *they*, &c.

Page

N O T E S.

Page 45, (*x*) *An anthem, &c.*] There are several days in the year when an anthem is performed by the boys in Christ's-Church, before the Lord-Mayor, Aldermen, and Governors of their own and the other hospitals; the chief of which are, the first Sunday in Lent, St. Matthew's, St. Stephen's days, and the Sunday after Ascension-Day. This was the first Sunday in Lent.

Page 52, (*y*) *Sir John Clambercrown*] A sort of strong, old black beer, formerly much in vogue, and brewed by Sir John Parsons in Wapping.

Page 84, (*z*) *Cots*] Broad black ferret shoe-strings, worn by the uppermost boys, when they are dressed to go out, the bows and ends of which generally reach the ground, and in dirty weather are of consequence soon bedragled.

Page 85, (*a*) *Skulked*] Got out without leave, and unobserved by the watch at the gate, which is often the case, though they are sure to be caught at coming home again; and unless they throw a sop to this Cerberus to preserve them, their back-sides frequently pay for it.

Page 97, (*b*) *A full-grown Darkin*] A large fowl, so called from the town of Darkin in Surrey, famous for its capons and poultry, especially fowls.

Page 113, (*c*) *Carry up the keys.*] The keys of the hospital-gates are, or should be, every night carried to the Treasurer, at ten o'Clock, and fetched back again by the porter at five or six the next morning; though they are generally returned immediately to save trouble.

Page 175, (*d*) *Skreiking*] To stand sily upon the watch in some corner, to give notice of any persons coming, is, in the hospital-language, called *Skreiking*. This is a part of an upper boy's business, lest his Master should be caught in a fault.

N O T E S.

fault. But *King* happening to be a little negligent in his duty, Mr. *Henchman* came upon him unawares, and caught him, though Templeman escaped through his crying out. In my time the watch word was *Tace*, though it was often changed to prevent discovery.

Ditto (*e*) *Under-Grecians*] There are generally in the Grammar-School two forms, or classes, who learn Greek, the upper of which contains the four or sometimes five seniors; and the other, who are called the under, or petty Grecians, about six or eight; these beginning to think themselves of consequence in the house, and for the most part being monitors in their respective wards, affect to dress gayer than the other boys, wear better girdles, small caps and cots, though they often buy the cast-off ones of the *Seniors*, who have new frequently once a month, but at their own expence.

Page 200, (*f*) *Crug*] See note to the *Address*.



